

THE FULL-TIME Wife ESCAPIST

2

Tsunami
Umino



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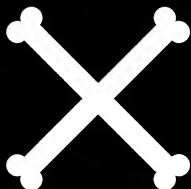
VOLUME
2



Tsunami Umino





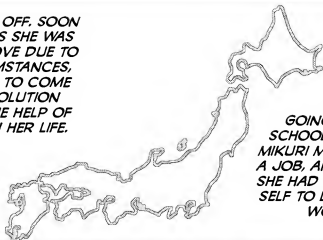


RECESSION

UNEMPLOYMENT

JOB SHORTAGES

...SHE GOT LAID OFF. SOON AFTER, EVEN AS SHE WAS FORCED TO MOVE DUE TO FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES, SHE WAS ABLE TO COME UP WITH A SOLUTION THANKS TO THE HELP OF THE PEOPLE IN HER LIFE.



GOING TO GRAD SCHOOL DIDN'T HELP MIKURI MORIYAMA FIND A JOB, AND JUST WHEN SHE HAD RESIGNED HERSELF TO LIFE AS A TEMP WORKER...

YOU KNOW
WHAT THEY SAY
IN HUNGARY?

"RUNNING
AWAY IS EM-
BARRASSING..."

I CAN GET
MARRIED, AND
THAT WILL BE
MY JOB!



"...BUT..."

"...USEFUL!"

5

The Quiet Bird Doesn't Get Shot



NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU CRY, THE SUN WON'T RISE FASTER.

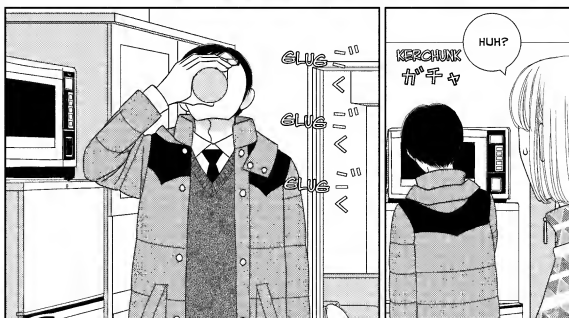
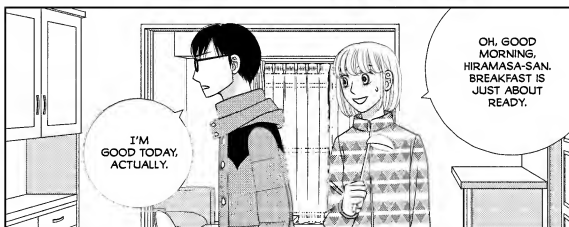
FORGET THE TEARS. NIGHT AND DAY ARE JUST WHAT YOU MAKE 'EM.

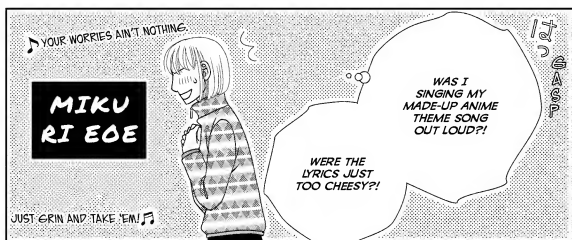
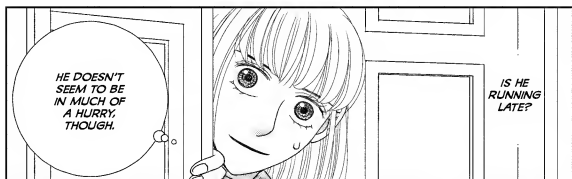
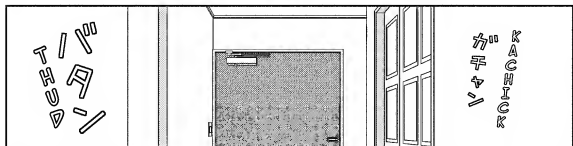
*EVEN IN THIS ERA
OF AN AGING
POPULATION.*

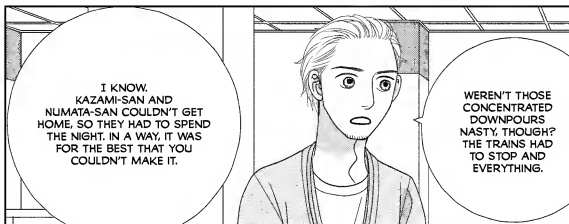
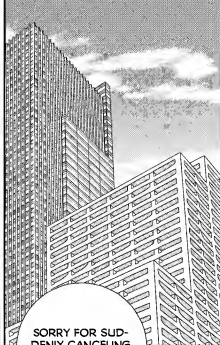
*PEOPLE KEEP
ON HOPING,*

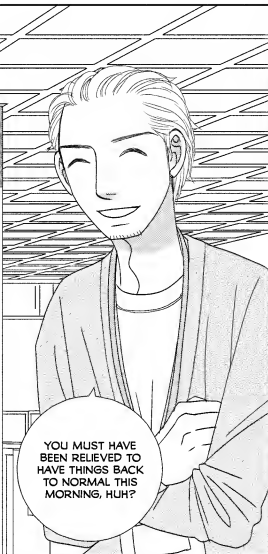
YOUR WORRIES AIN'T NOTHING. JUST GRIN AND TAKE 'EM.











YOU MUST HAVE BEEN RELIEVED TO HAVE THINGS BACK TO NORMAL THIS MORNING, HUH?



WOW, SHE MUST HAVE THE PATIENCE OF A SAINT.

IT CAUGHT HER A LITTLE OFF GUARD, BUT IT DIDN'T BOTHER HER TOO MUCH



SOUNDS LIKE IT WAS A BUSY WEEKEND.

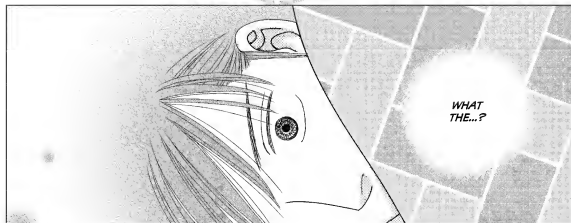
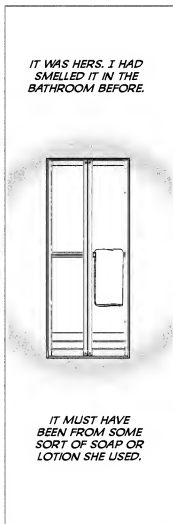
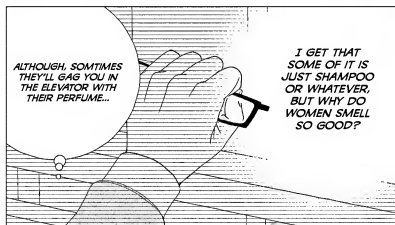
HER AUNT CAME OVER FOR A WHILE SUNDAY AFTERNOON, ANYWAY.





CLICK
カキヤ







IT-IT'S
FRESH!

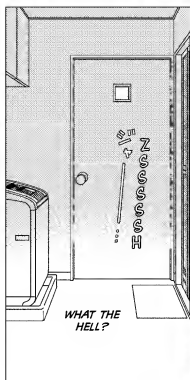
THE BED'S
COVERED IN
HER SCENT!



HOW AM I
SUPPOSED TO SLEEP
SURROUNDED BY THIS
SWEET SMELL?

IT'S CLEARLY
NOT THE SCENT OF
FRESHLY WASHED
SHEETS!

DID HER SMELL
GET TRAPPED IN
THE SHEETS BECAUSE
SHE LAID DOWN IN
THE BED AFTER
HER BATH?



WHAT THE
HELL?



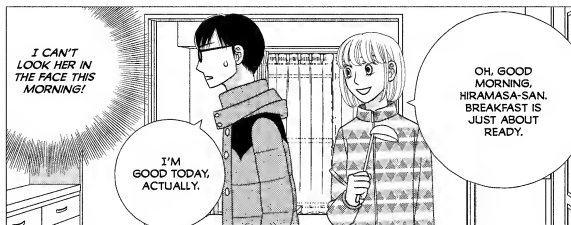
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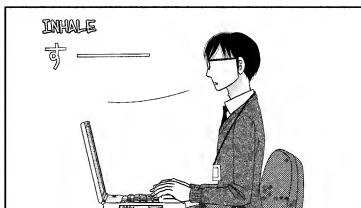
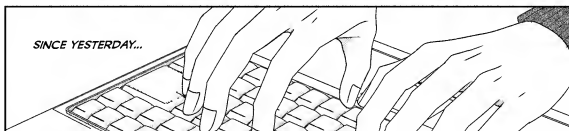


OH MY GOD!
THIS IS LIKE SLEEP-
ING TOGETHER...
OR I MEAN, I
IMAGINE SO.

TH-THIS IS
FRUSTRATING.



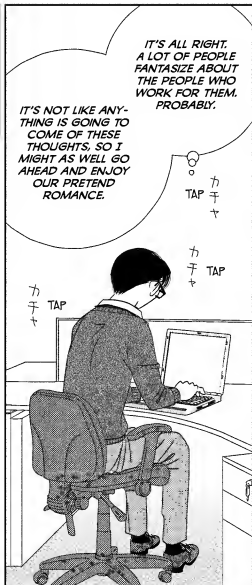
AND WITH THAT...

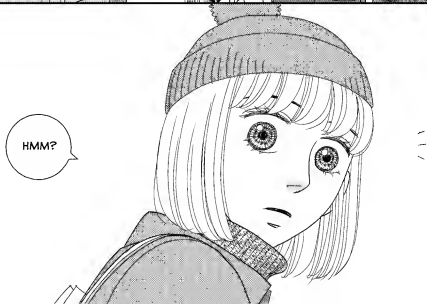
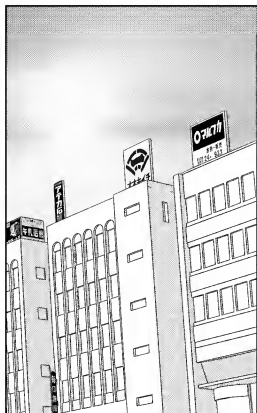




IF SHE "RESIGNS" AND MARRIES
SOMEONE FOR REAL SOMEDAY...

...I'LL PROBABLY BE
ALONE FOR THE REST
OF MY LIFE.









I USUALLY USE A RICE-COOKING POT ON THE STOVE, BUT IT COULDN'T FIT ENOUGH RICE FOR ALL OF US, SO I ENDED UP USING A CLAY POT.

BUT THEN HOW'D YOU MAKE THOSE RICE BALLS THE OTHER DAY?



YES, YES, IT IS.

WHAT'S THAT? A RICE COOKER?



THE POT GETS TOO HOT TO TOUCH, AND IF YOU LEAVE IT TO LONG, THE RICE STICKS.

MAKING RICE IN A CLAY POT IS TASTY AND FAST, BUT IT'S A LITTLE TOO MUCH WORK.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU BOUGHT A RICE COOKER.

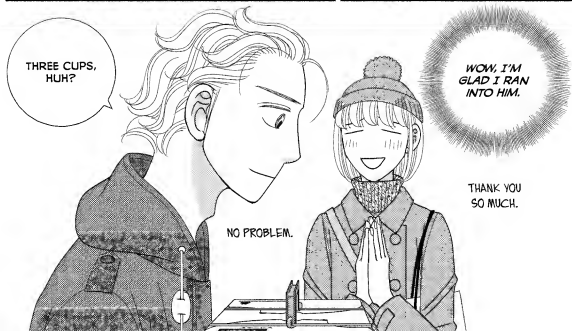


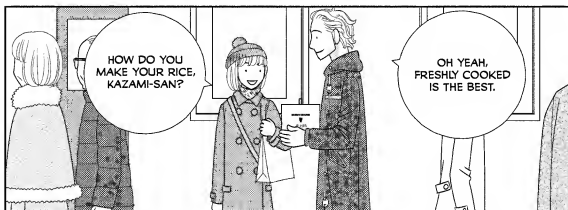
IT WAS NUMATA-SAN WHO SHOWED ME HOW. HE'S A GENIUS.

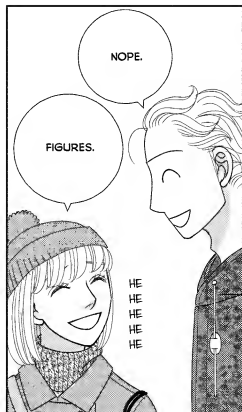
WOW, THAT'S IMPRESSIVE!

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A RICE COOKER, WE CAN JUST USE THE CLAY POT.

IT'S EASY.



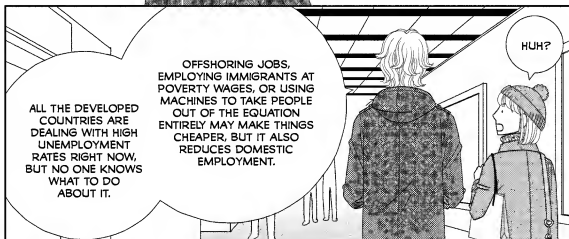






THAT'S
A LITTLE
SCARY.

WE'RE GONNA LOSE
A LOT OF JOBS TO
GLOBALIZATION AND
MECHANIZATION. WHAT
CAN WE EVEN DO
ABOUT THAT?



ALL THE DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES ARE
DEALING WITH HIGH
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATES RIGHT NOW,
BUT NO ONE KNOWS
WHAT TO DO
ABOUT IT.

OFFSHORING JOBS,
EMPLOYING IMMIGRANTS AT
POVERTY WAGES, OR USING
MACHINES TO TAKE PEOPLE
OUT OF THE EQUATION
ENTIRELY MAY MAKE THINGS
CHEAPER, BUT IT ALSO
REDUCES DOMESTIC
EMPLOYMENT.

HUH?



HMM.

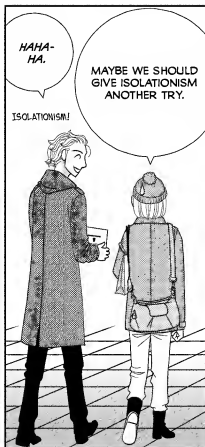


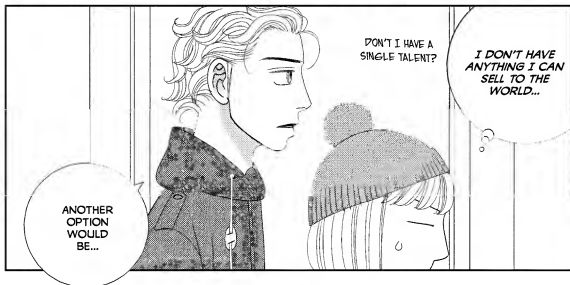
I FEEL LIKE
GLOBALIZATION IS
BASICALLY LIKE
SELLING OUR JOBS
OVERSEAS JUST
SO WE CAN BUY
CHEAP STUFF.

AT THIS RATE,
OUR DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES
WON'T BE ABLE TO COMPETE
AND WILL WITHER AWAY. BUT
WHAT IF WE FIND OURSELVES
UNABLE TO IMPORT ANY-
MORE ONE DAY? WHAT WILL
WE DO IF WE DON'T HAVE
THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR
PRODUCING THINGS
DOMESTICALLY?



*ABOUT A US DOLLAR.







...TO DO THE OPPOSITE:
JUST TRY TO DO
BUSINESS IN YOUR
OWN LITTLE
WORLD.

YOUR
OWN LITTLE
WORLD?



YEAH, THERE
ARE PROBABLY
PEOPLE WHO DO
THAT KIND OF
THING.

SO LIKE DOING
ODD JOBS FOR
YOUR FRIENDS
AND STUFF?

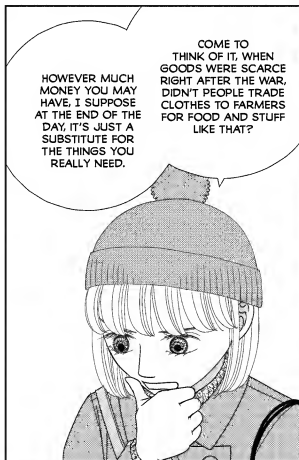
"WILL WORK
FOR FOOD,"
AS THEY
SAID.



THAT'S WHAT
SOME PEOPLE ARE
STARTING TO SAY,
ANYWAY.

SOMETHING WHERE
INSTEAD OF TRYING TO
MAKE A BUNCH OF MONEY,
YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO
MAKE A LIVING. HELL, YOU
DON'T EVEN HAVE TO GET
PAID WITH MONEY.

I MEAN LIKE A LITTLE
BUSINESS ON A SCALE
WHERE YOU AND YOUR
CUSTOMERS CAN SEE
EACH OTHER'S FACES,
WHERE THEY CAN REACH
YOU AND YOU CAN TAKE
DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THINGS.



HOWEVER MUCH MONEY YOU MAY HAVE, I SUPPOSE AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT'S JUST A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE THINGS YOU REALLY NEED.

COME TO THINK OF IT, WHEN GOODS WERE SCARCE RIGHT AFTER THE WAR, DIDN'T PEOPLE TRADE CLOTHES TO FARMERS FOR FOOD AND STUFF LIKE THAT?



OR LIKE GROWING YOUR OWN FOOD IN A GARDEN AND TRADING FOR ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEED WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS.

THAT WORKS, TOO. IT SOUNDS LIKE IT WOULD BE PRETTY NICE IF YOU HAD A SIDE JOB TO GET A LITTLE CASH.



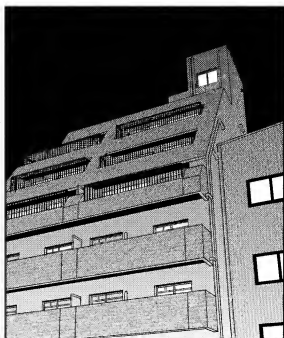
AWW! BUT I WANTED TO KEEP TALKING.

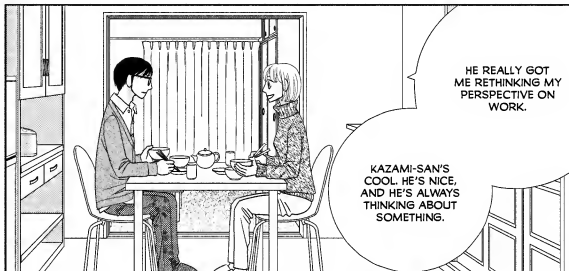
WELL, I GUESS I CAN'T EXACTLY INVITE MY CO-WORKER'S WIFE OUT FOR COFFEE.



OH, LOOKS LIKE THIS IS MY STOP. I'VE GOT TO TAKE THE SUBWAY.

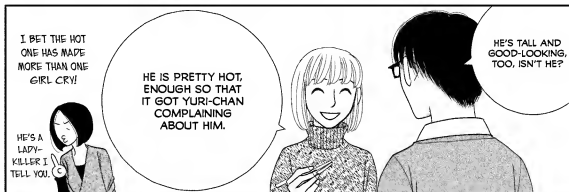
SO IF THINGS GO BAD INTERNATIONALLY AND WE CAN'T IMPORT ANYMORE, AS LONG AS YOU'RE ABLE TO GET YOUR OWN FOOD, YOU COULD PROBABLY MANAGE.





HE REALLY GOT
ME RETHINKING MY
PERSPECTIVE ON
WORK.

KAZAMI-SAN'S
COOL. HE'S NICE,
AND HE'S ALWAYS
THINKING ABOUT
SOMETHING.



I BET THE HOT
ONE HAS MADE
MORE THAN ONE
GIRL CRY!

HE'S A
LADY-
KILLER I
TELL YOU.

HE IS PRETTY HOT,
ENOUGH SO THAT
IT GOT YURI-CHAN
COMPLAINING
ABOUT HIM.

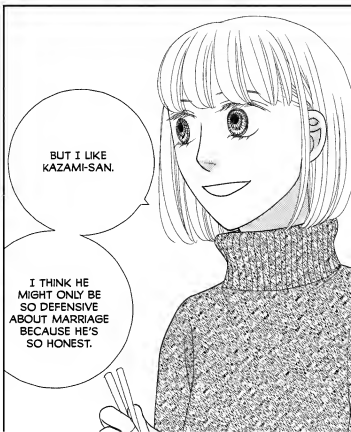
HE'S TALL AND
GOOD-LOOKING,
TOO, ISN'T HE?



MAYBE.

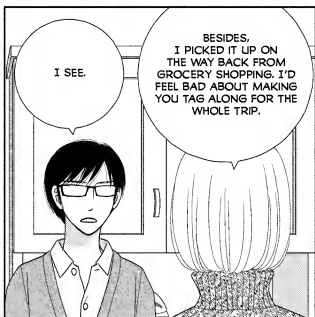
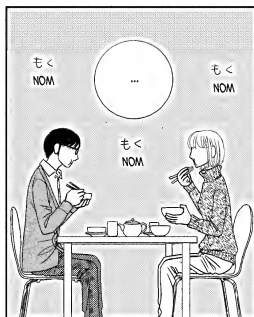
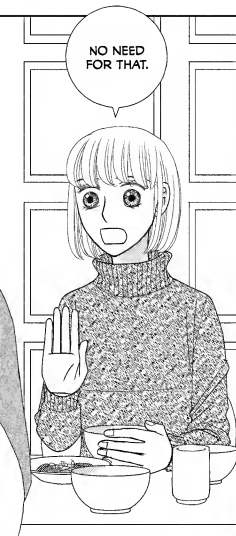
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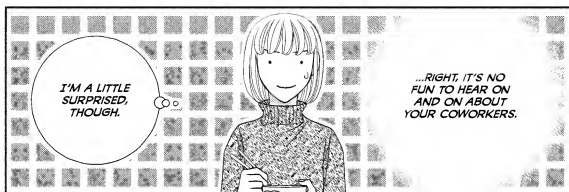
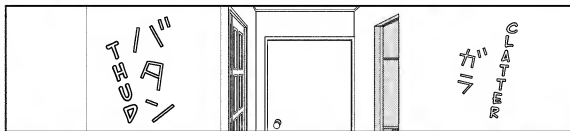
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BUT I LIKE
KAZAMI-SAN.

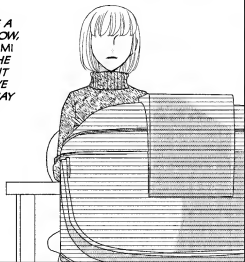
I THINK HE
MIGHT ONLY BE
SO DEFENSIVE
ABOUT MARRIAGE
BECAUSE HE'S
SO HONEST.







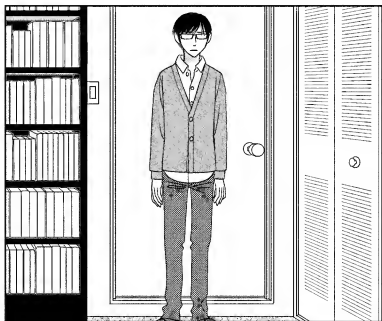
*SINCE WE HAVE A
RICE COOKER NOW,
I MADE TAKIKOMI
GOHAN FOR THE
FIRST TIME, BUT
HE DIDN'T HAVE
ANYTHING TO SAY
ABOUT IT...*



*MAYBE I'M
EXPECTING TOO
MUCH FROM MY
BOSS.*

*IT'S JUST THAT I LIKE
HOW HE'S ALWAYS
COMMENTED ON MY
COOKING UNTIL NOW.
I GUESS I STARTED TO
EXPECT THAT WITHOUT
REALIZING IT.*

THERE'S SOME-
THING I FAILED
TO TAKE INTO
ACCOUNT.



*HAS ANYONE EVER REQUITED MY
ROMANTIC FEELINGS FOR THEM?*

—► NO.

DO I THINK ANYONE EVER WILL?

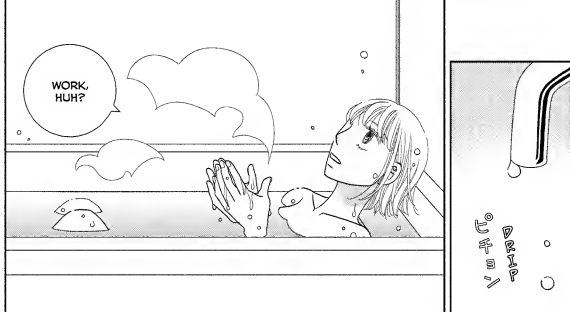


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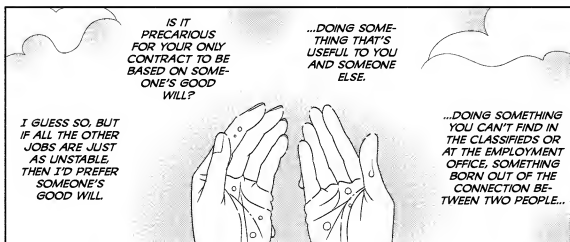
—► NO.



*IT'S BEEN SO
LONG SINCE I'VE
HAD HOMEMADE
TAKIKOMI GOHAN
LIKE THAT.*



*DOING BUSINESS IN YOUR OWN
LITTLE WORLD...*



*A JOB WHERE INSTEAD
OF TRYING TO MAKE A
BUNCH OF MONEY...*

*...YOU'RE
JUST TRYING
TO MAKE A
LIVING.*

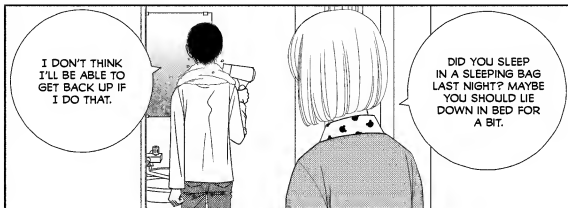
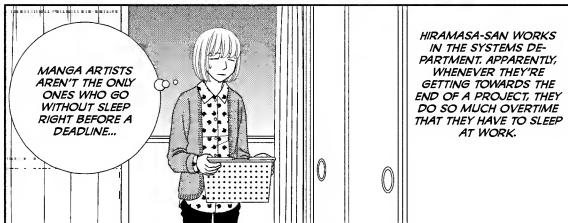


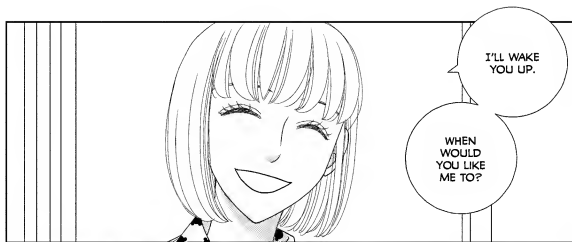


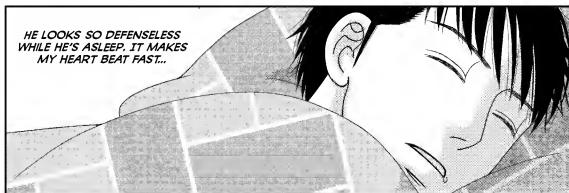
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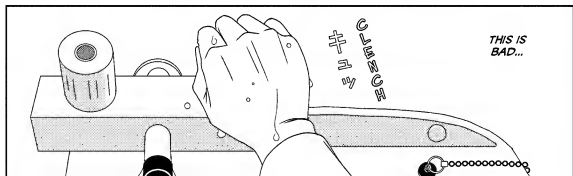
One Hour of a Spring Night
Is Worth More Than Gold













THAT WOULD
MAKE IT HARD
TO KEEP LIVING
TOGETHER.

SHE'S BEING SO
NICE TO ME WHEN
I'M UNDER SO
MUCH PRESSURE.
AT THIS RATE, I'M
GOING TO END UP
LIKING HER IN THE
WRONG WAY.



MIKURI-SAN.

SEE YOU
LATER.

TRY NOT
TO PASS
OUT.

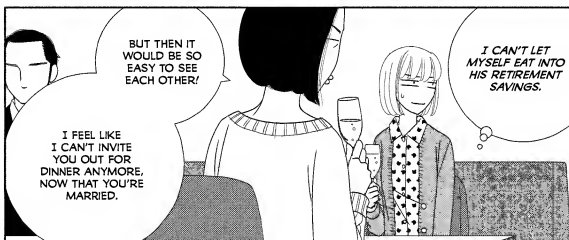
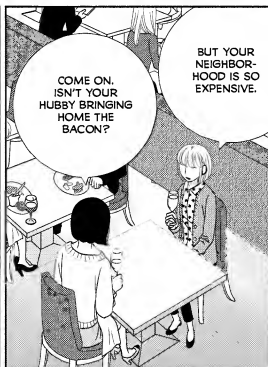


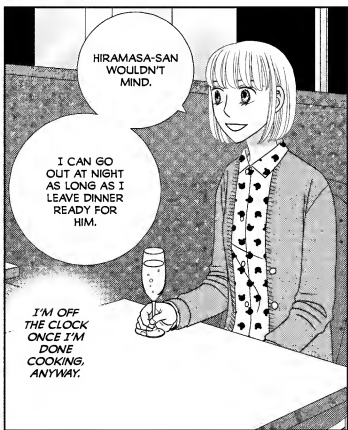
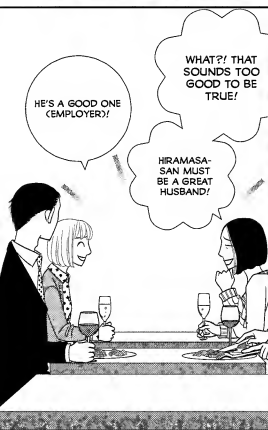
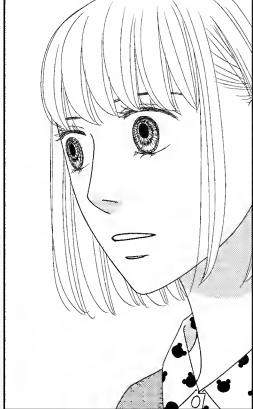
ONCE THINGS
HAVE SETTLED
DOWN FOR ME
AT WORK, LET'S
CONSIDER
MOVING...

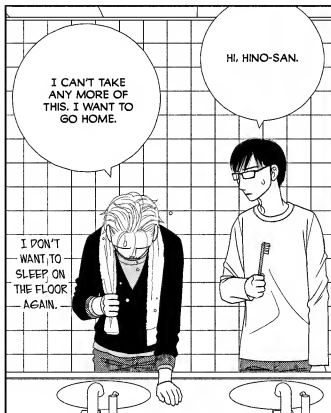


I KEEP LOSING MY COOL WHEN SHE GETS TOO CLOSE.

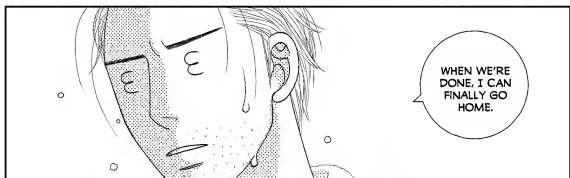








HEY THERE.



EVEN IF YOU'RE
NOT INTERESTED,
SHE MIGHT BE!
WOMEN AND KIDS
LOVE PICKING
STRAWBERRIES!

I'M THE ONLY ONE
WHO HASN'T SEEN
YOUR WIFE YET,
BECAUSE I HAD TO
CANCEL! I WANT TO
SEE HER!



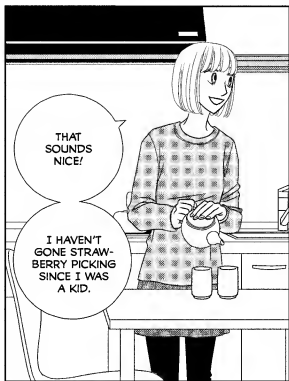
DO YOU AND
YOUR WIFE WANT
TO COME? WE CAN
MAKE RESERVATIONS
TOGETHER.

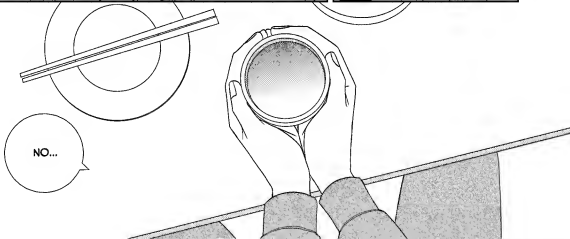
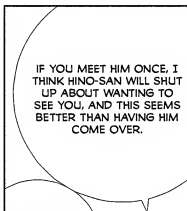
NO,
WE'RE-

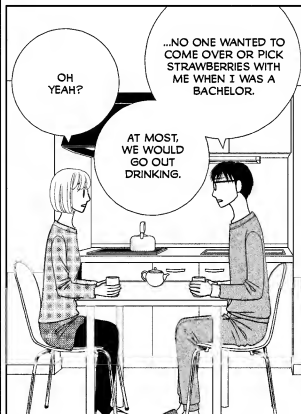


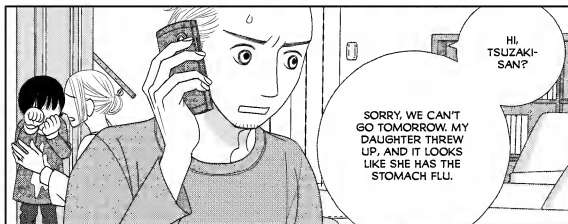
THAT
SOUNDS
NICE!

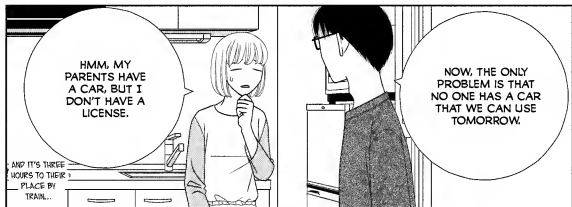
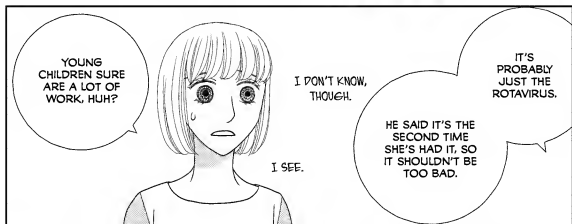
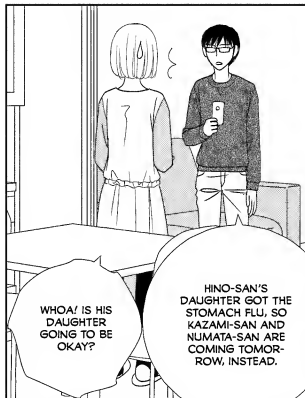
I HAVEN'T
GONE STRAW-
BERRY PICKING
SINCE I WAS
A KID.

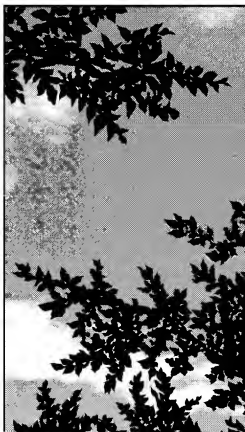
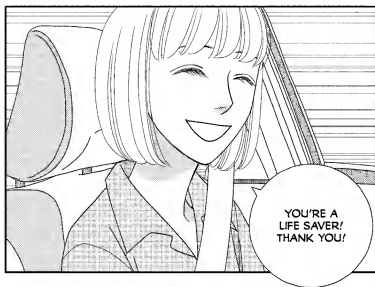


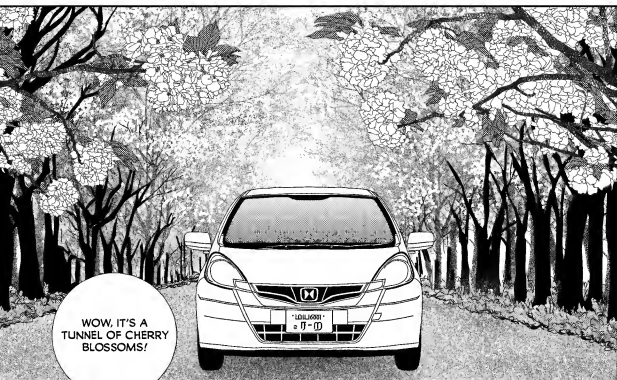
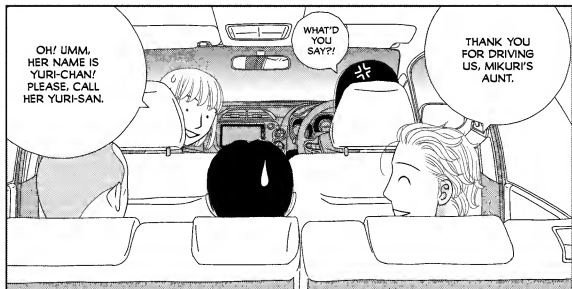


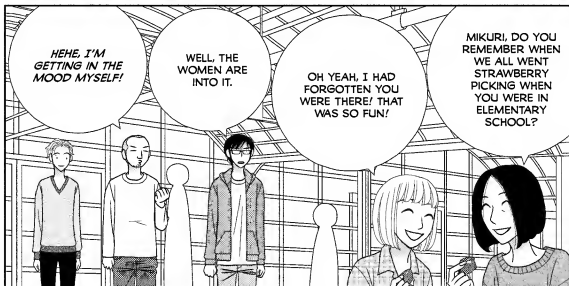
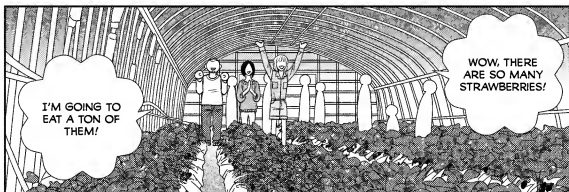
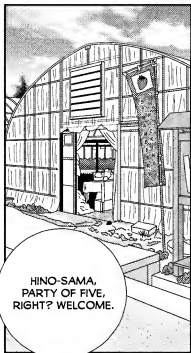














THEY'RE SO SWEET!

YUMMY!

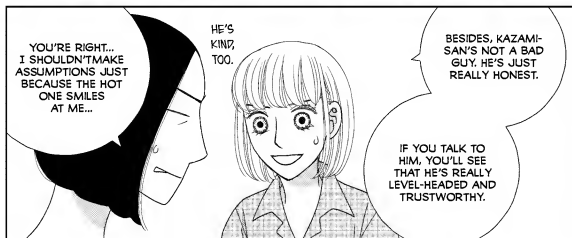


NO WAY! NO ONE'S MOCKING YOU!

THE HOT ONE IS MOCKING ME. I'M JUST SOME OLD HAG SQUEALING OVER STRAWBERRIES TO HIM...

IT'S JUST YOUR IMAGINATION!

EUH...

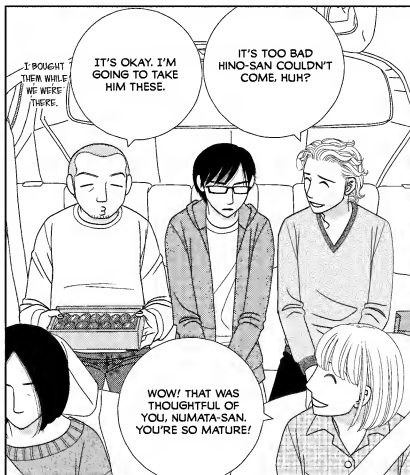
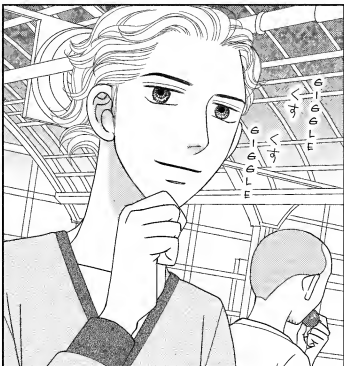


YOU'RE RIGHT... I SHOULDN'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS JUST BECAUSE THE HOT ONE SMILES AT ME...

HE'S KIND, TOO.

BESIDES, KAZAMI-SAN'S NOT A BAD GUY. HE'S JUST REALLY HONEST.

IF YOU TALK TO HIM, YOU'LL SEE THAT HE'S REALLY LEVEL-HEADED AND TRUSTWORTHY.



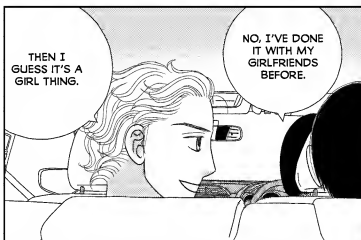


HA HA
HA!

TO BE HONEST, I
JUST THOUGHT YOU
REALLY LIKED THEM.

DID YOU THINK
I'M SOME KINDA
STRAWBERRY
FIEND OR WHAT?

I ALREADY
ATE SO MANY. WERE
YOU WONDERING WHAT
I WOULD DO WITH ALL
THESE STRAWBERRIES?



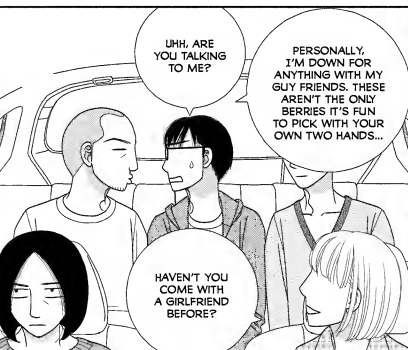
THEN I
GUESS IT'S A
GIRL THING.

NO, I'VE DONE
IT WITH MY
GIRLFRIENDS
BEFORE.



THIS WAS MY
FIRST TIME
DOING THIS. I
HAD A LOT OF
FUN.

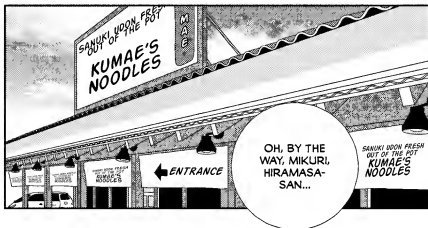
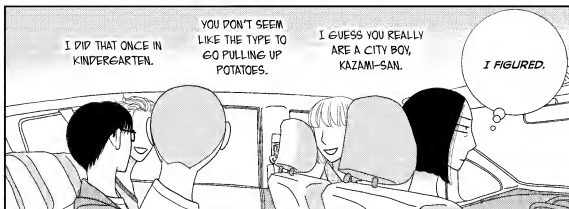
I GUESS
STRAWBERRY
PICKING IS
USUALLY A
FAMILY THING.



UHH, ARE
YOU TALKING
TO ME?

PERSONALLY,
I'M DOWN FOR
ANYTHING WITH
MY GUY FRIENDS. THESE
AREN'T THE ONLY
BERRIES IT'S FUN
TO PICK WITH YOUR
OWN TWO HANDS...

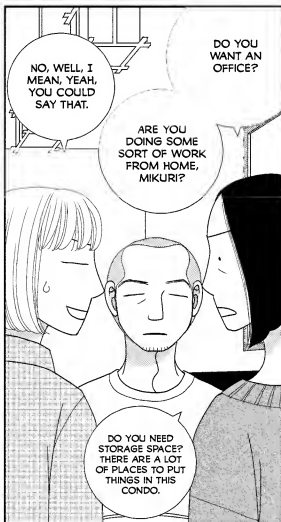
HAVEN'T YOU
COME WITH
A GIRLFRIEND
BEFORE?



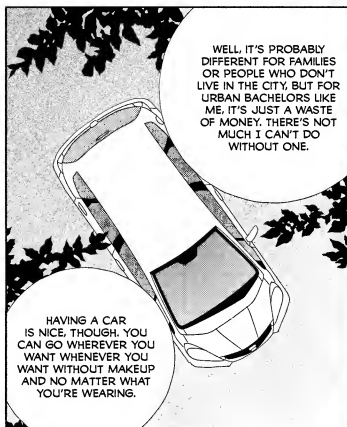
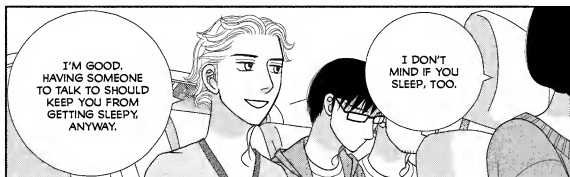
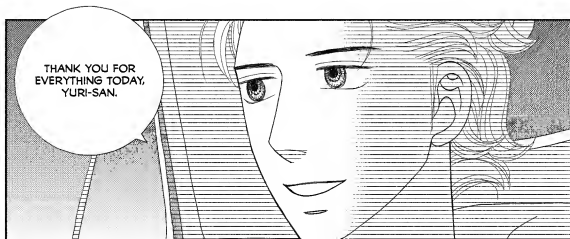


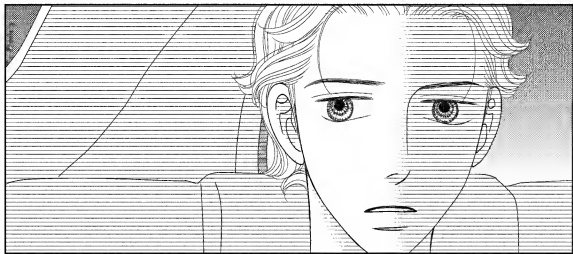
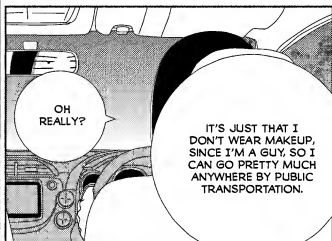
ABOUT 100 US DOLLARS.

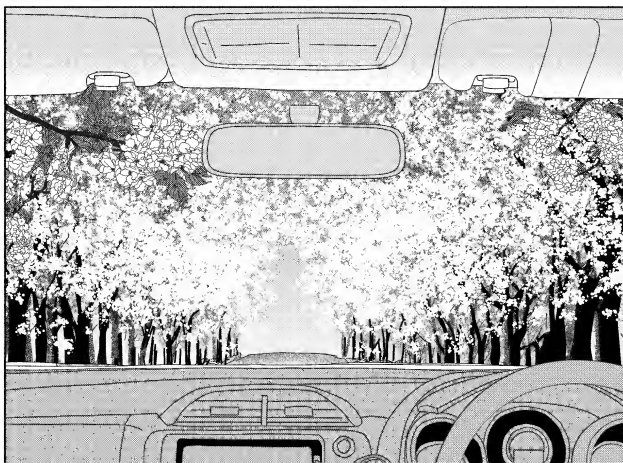


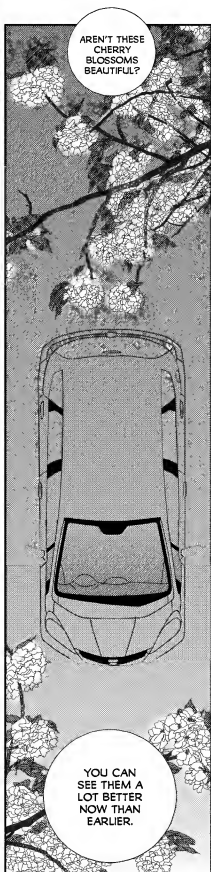


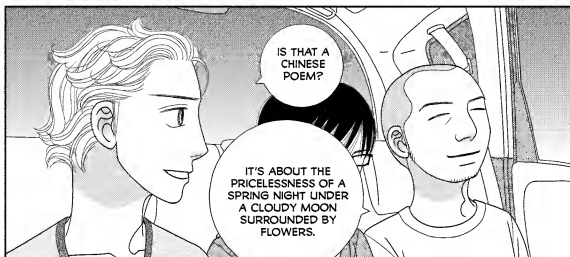
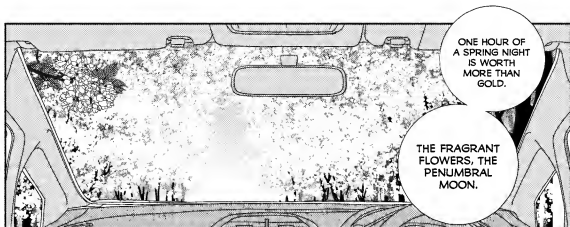












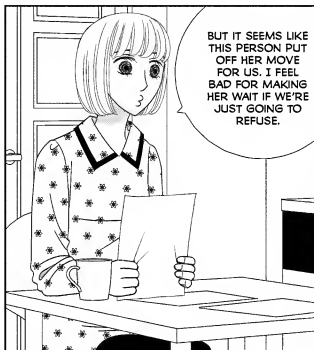
7

**It's Hard to Make the Good
Things Last**









ARE YOU SERIOUS?

THE HOT
ONE...?

PERSONALLY,
I'D LIKE YOU AND
YOUR HUSBAND TO
LIVE THERE, SINCE
IT'S SUCH A GREAT
OPPORTUNITY.

YURI-CHAN,
HE HAS A
NAME.

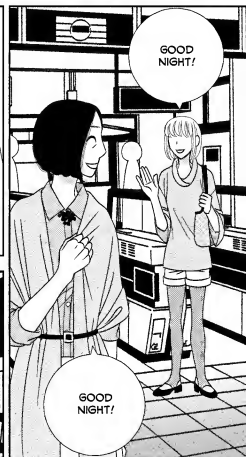
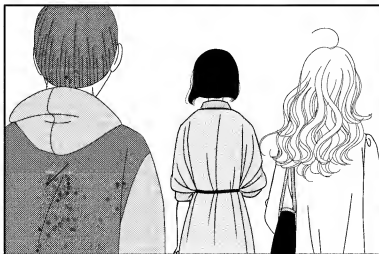
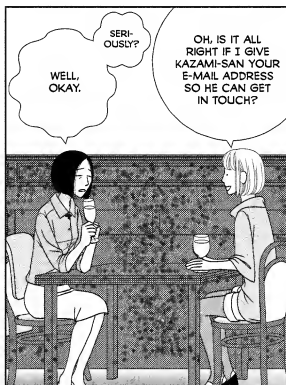
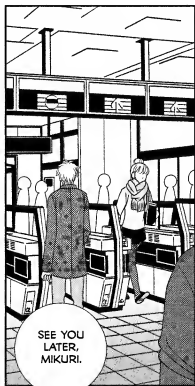
I'D LIKE TO
INTRODUCE HIM TO
THE OWNER, IF SHE'S
INTERESTED.

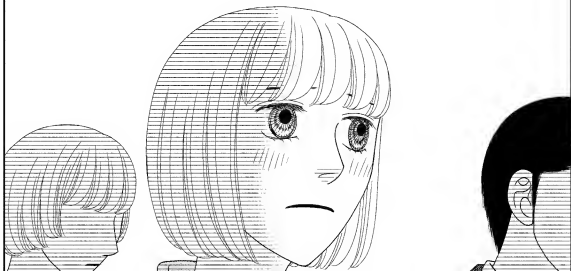
KAZAMI-SAN
DOESN'T HAVE ANY PETS,
DOESN'T SMOKE, AND
HAS A STABLE INCOME,
SO I THINK HE MEETS ALL
THE REQUIREMENTS.

HMM. OKAY.
I'LL CHECK
IN ABOUT IT.

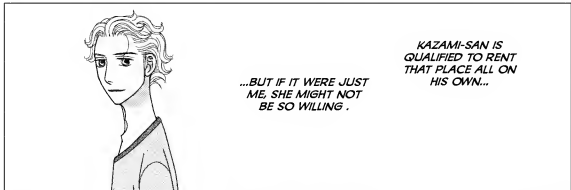
I SEE.

I'M SORRY. IT
REALLY DOES
SEEM GREAT,
BUT WE JUST
CAN'T.



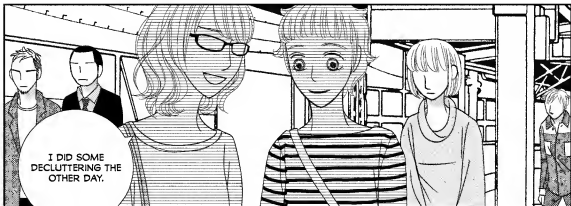


I FEEL A LITTLE SAD, SOMEHOW.

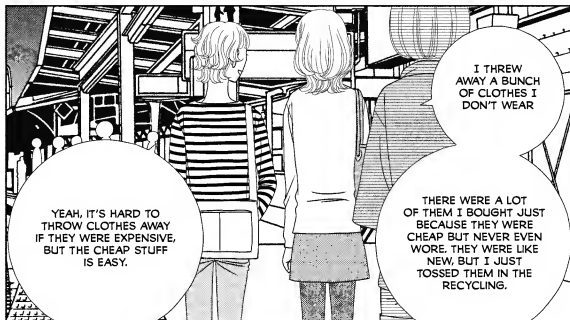


*...BUT IF IT WERE JUST
ME, SHE MIGHT NOT
BE SO WILLING .*

*KAZAMI-SAN IS
QUALIFIED TO RENT
THAT PLACE ALL ON
HIS OWN...*



*I DID SOME
DECLUTTERING THE
OTHER DAY.*



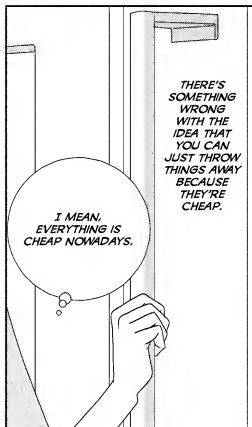
YEAH, IT'S HARD TO
THROW CLOTHES AWAY
IF THEY WERE EXPENSIVE,
BUT THE CHEAP STUFF
IS EASY.

I THREW
AWAY A BUNCH
OF CLOTHES I
DON'T WEAR

THERE WERE A LOT
OF THEM I BOUGHT JUST
BECAUSE THEY WERE
CHEAP BUT NEVER EVEN
WORE. THEY WERE LIKE
NEW, BUT I JUST
TOSSED THEM IN THE
RECYCLING.

*I UNDERSTAND THE
SENTIMENT...*

...BUT...



I MEAN,
EVERYTHING IS
CHEAP NOWADAYS.

THERE'S
SOMETHING
WRONG
WITH THE
IDEA THAT
YOU CAN
JUST THROW
THINGS AWAY
BECAUSE
THEY'RE
CHEAP.



IT HURTS TO BE
THE ONE WHO'S
DISPOSABLE...

...PLEASE
TAKE BETTER
CARE OF
PEOPLE AND
THINGS.

...TO NOT
BE WORTH
ANYTHING...
GUH.

IF EVERYONE ON EARTH TRIED TO MATCH THE LIFESTYLE OF THE AVERAGE JAPANESE PERSON, THERE WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH RESOURCES TO GO AROUND. THE WORLD WOULD JUST GO BANKRUPT.

IF CANDY WAS MORE EXPENSIVE, PEOPLE WOULDN'T JUST CHOW DOWN ON IT WHENEVER. THEY'D HAVE TO SAVOR THAT SWEET, SWEET CHOCOLATE WHEN THEY HAD THE CHANCE.



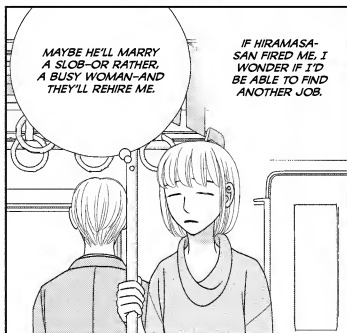
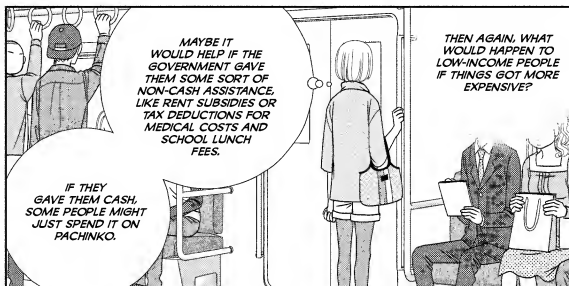
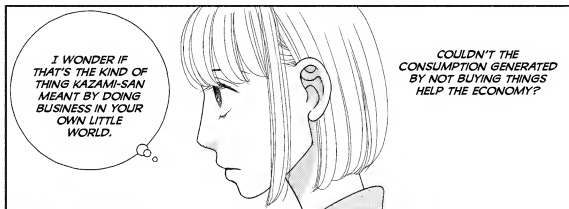
IF CLOTHES WERE MORE EXPENSIVE, PEOPLE WOULDN'T BUY THEM SO EASILY. THEY'D TAKE GOOD CARE OF THEM, AND IF THEY DIDN'T FIT, THEY'D GET THEM TAILORED.

INSTEAD OF GOING AROUND THE WORLD LOOKING FOR THE CHEAPEST LABOR, PEOPLE COULD HIRE LOCALS WHO KNOW HOW TO FIX THINGS.

WOULDN'T IT BE NICE IF PEOPLE STARTED TO VALUE THINGS THAT WERE FIXED OVER AND OVER AND HAD A LOT OF WORK PUT INTO THEM OVER THE NEWEST STUFF?

IF PEOPLE WOULD BUY THINGS AT A REASONABLE PRICE AND FIX THEM WHEN THEY WERE DAMAGED INSTEAD OF JUST BUYING THE CHEAPEST STUFF AND TREATING IT LIKE IT WERE DISPOSABLE...

...I BET THAT WOULD CREATE SOME JOBS.



...BUT THERE'S
SOMEONE
BESIDE ME.



ON MY OWN...

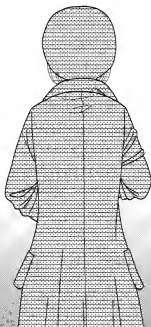
WITHOUT HIM, THE
FUTON'S SHEETS
AROUND ME...

...AND WHEN I
LOSE MY JOB I
CLOSE MY EYES
AND HE HAS
HIRED ME.

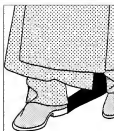


...ALL ALONE
I SLEEP
UNTIL THE
MORNING...

...STILL I SAY:
THERE'S A
WAY FOR ME.



AND ALTHOUGH
I KNOW THERE
ARE NO JOBS...



AND I
KNOW IT'S
ONLY IN MY
DREAMS...

...THAT I'M
TALKING TO
MYSELF, AND
NOT TO HIM.

OH UNEMPLOYMENT...

(TO THE TUNE OF "ON MY
OWN" FROM LES MISÉRABLES)



WITHOUT ME, THAT
JOB WILL BE DONE
BETTER...

...IN A WORLD
THAT'S FULL OF
HAPPINESS THAT
I HAVE NEVER
KNOWN.



JOB HUNTING,
BUT EVERYDAY
I'M LEARNING...

...ALL MY LIFE,
I'VE ONLY BEEN
DREAMING.



JOB HUNTING...

JOB HUNTING...



JOB HUNTING...



BUT I'M...

...UNEMPLOYED...

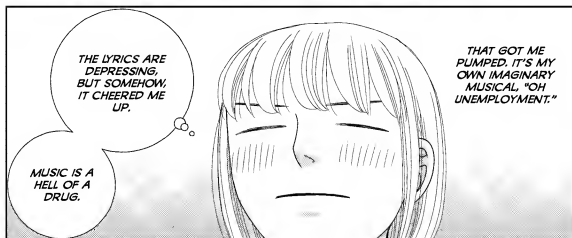
...STILL.

HURRAH



I NAILED [♪]
THAT SONG.

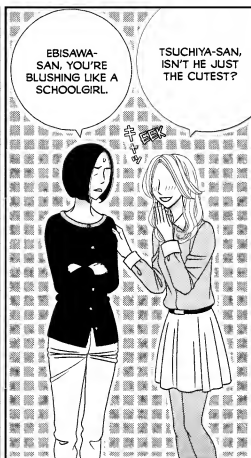
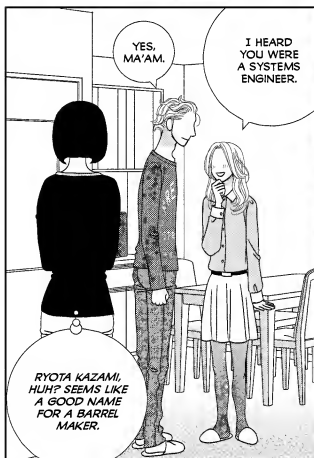
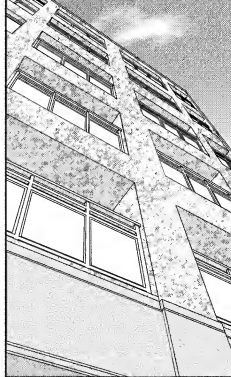
IF YOU WILL
BE CHANGING
TRAINS...
THE NEXT...

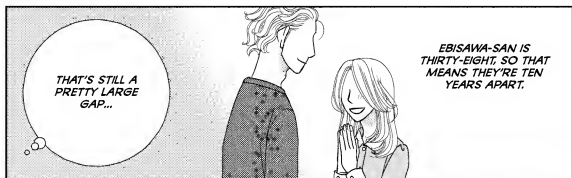
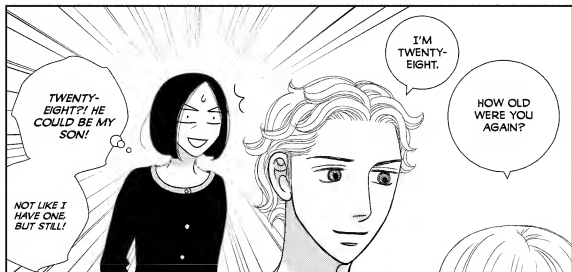


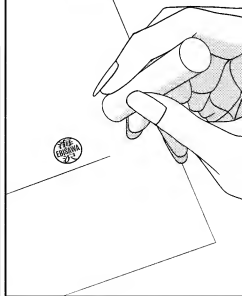
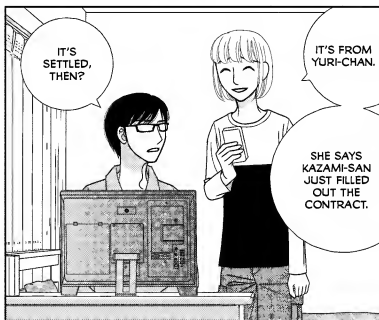
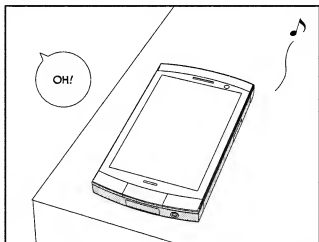
THE LYRICS ARE
DEPRESSING,
BUT SOMEHOW,
IT CHEERED ME
UP.

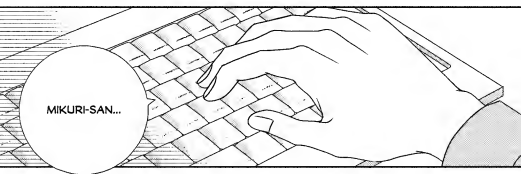
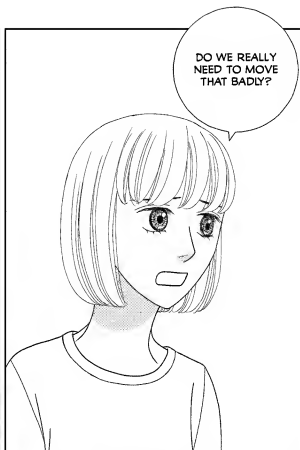
MUSIC IS A
HELL OF A
DRUG.

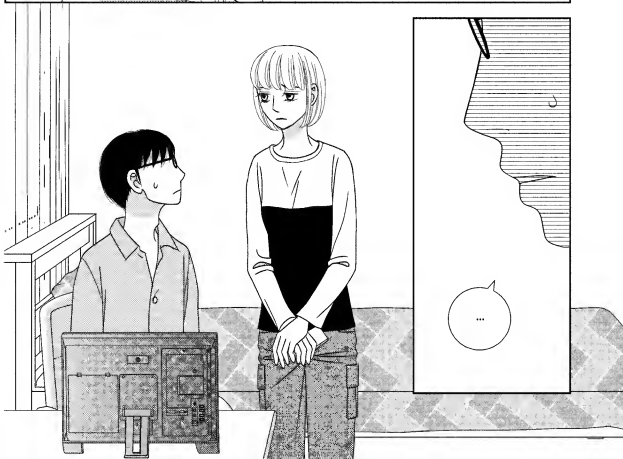
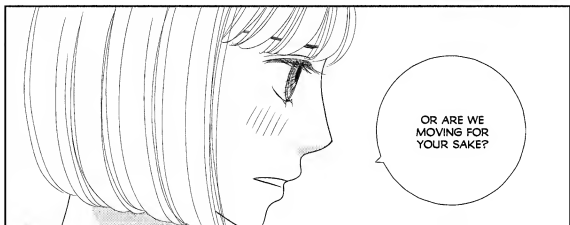
THAT GOT ME
PUMPED. IT'S MY
OWN IMAGINARY
MUSICAL, "OH
UNEMPLOYMENT."

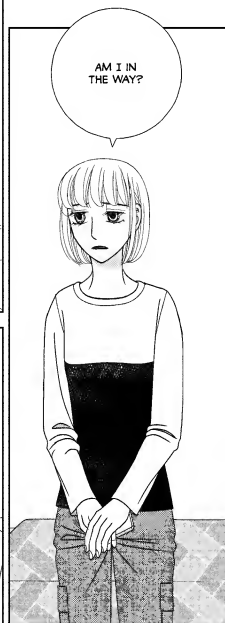


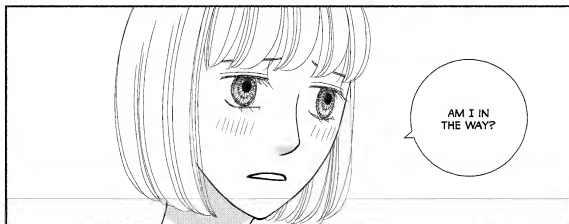












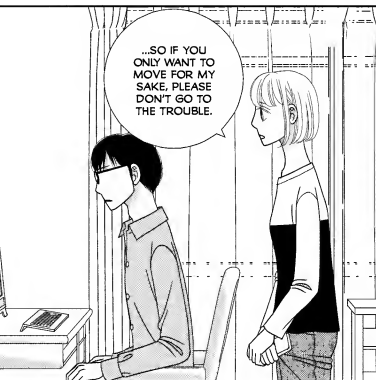


YOU'RE DOING
A GREAT JOB AS MY
EMPLOYEE, MIKURI-SAN.
YOU'RE VERY HELPFUL.

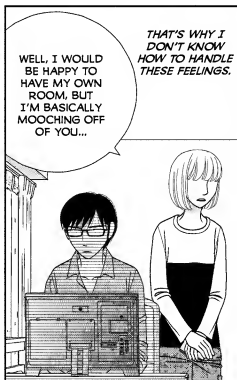
REALLY...

...IT'S MY OWN
FEELINGS THAT
ARE IN THE WAY
MORE THAN
ANYTHING.

I CAN'T SAY THAT
SHE'S NOT IN THE WAY
AT ALL, BUT SHE'S
VERY HELPFUL, TOO.

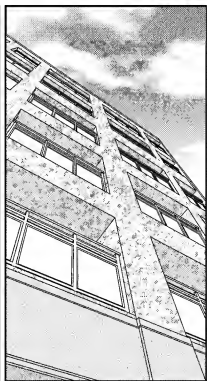


...SO IF YOU
ONLY WANT TO
MOVE FOR MY
SAKE, PLEASE
DON'T GO TO
THE TROUBLE.



WELL, I WOULD
BE HAPPY TO
HAVE MY OWN
ROOM, BUT
I'M BASICALLY
MOOCHING OFF
OF YOU...

THAT'S WHY I
DON'T KNOW
HOW TO HANDLE
THESE FEELINGS.

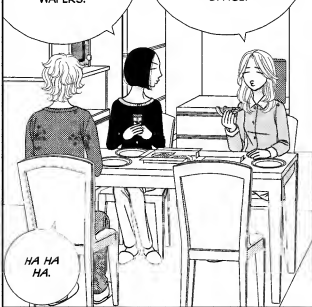


MARRIAGE,
HUH?



NAGOYA'S
REALLY NICE.
YOU'LL GET
HOOKED ON
THE *SHIRUKO*
WAFERS.

YEP!
THAT'S WHY I
WORK. I'LL EVEN
MOVE FOR THE
COMPANY WHEN
THEY TRANSFER
ME TO ANOTHER
OFFICE.



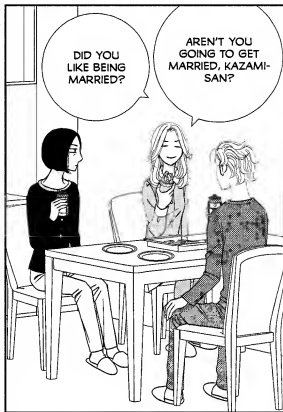
HA HA
HA.

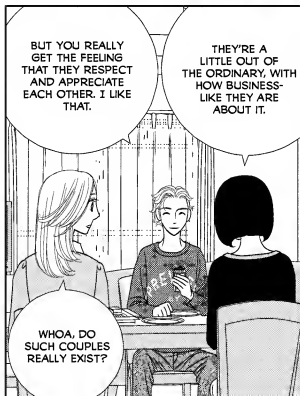
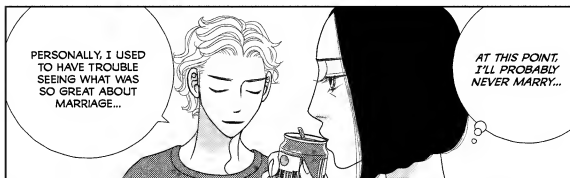
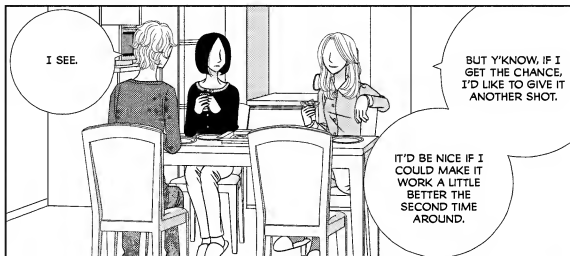
HMM...
THERE WERE
SOME THINGS I
LIKED ABOUT IT, AND
THEN THERE WERE
SOME THINGS
THAT WERE A
REAL PAIN.

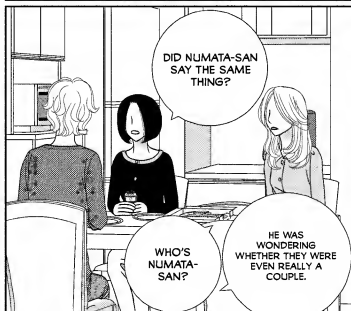
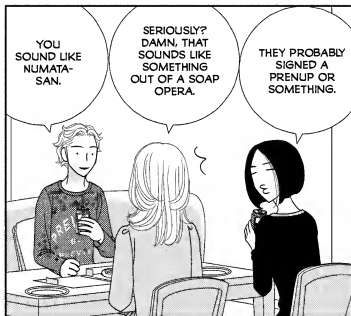


DID YOU
LIKE BEING
MARRIED?

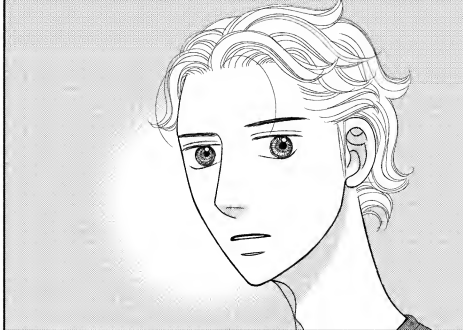
AREN'T YOU
GOING TO GET
MARRIED, KAZAMI-
SAN?







A BEDROOM WITH A
SINGLE TWIN BED...



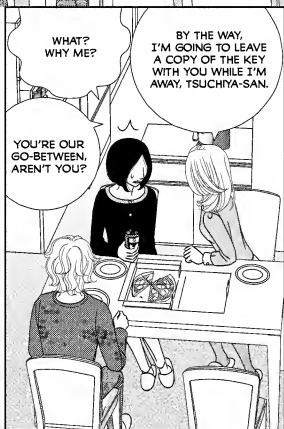
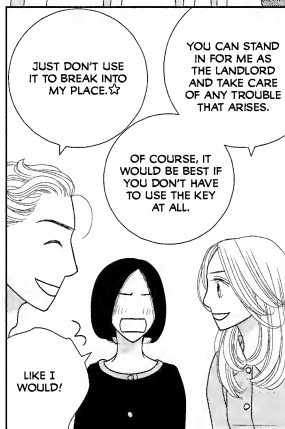
"YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE
NEWLYWEDS TO ME."

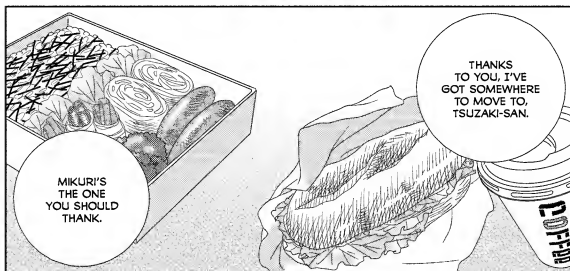
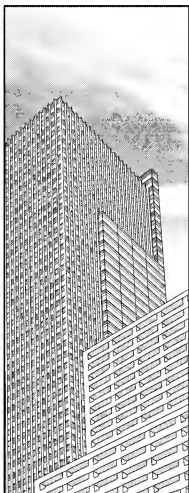
...AND A KITCHEN
THAT DOESN'T
REFLECT MRS.
TSUZAKI'S TASTE.

"OUR RELATIONSHIP IS HELD
TOGETHER BY GRATITUDE."

"THERE ARE THE TAX
DEDUCTIONS, AND LIVING
TOGETHER IS CHEAPER
THAN LIVING ALONE."

COME TO THINK
OF IT, THEY DIDN'T
EVEN HAVE A RICE
COOKER, DID
THEY?







NO...

HAVE YOU GUYS FOUND A PLACE YET?

THE WOMAN WHO OWNS IT WILL BE MOVING DURING GOLDEN WEEK, SO SOMETIME AFTER THAT.

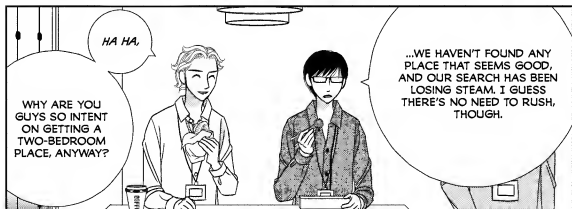
WHEN ARE YOU MOVING?



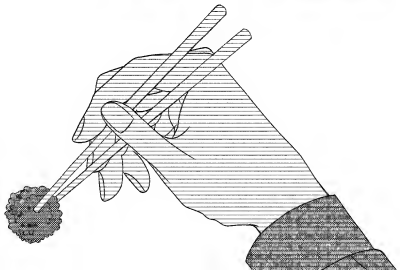
HA HA,

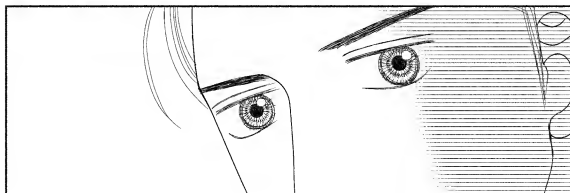
WHY ARE YOU GUYS SO INTENT ON GETTING A TWO-BEDROOM PLACE, ANYWAY?

...WE HAVEN'T FOUND ANY PLACE THAT SEEMS GOOD, AND OUR SEARCH HAS BEEN LOSING STEAM. I GUESS THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH, THOUGH.

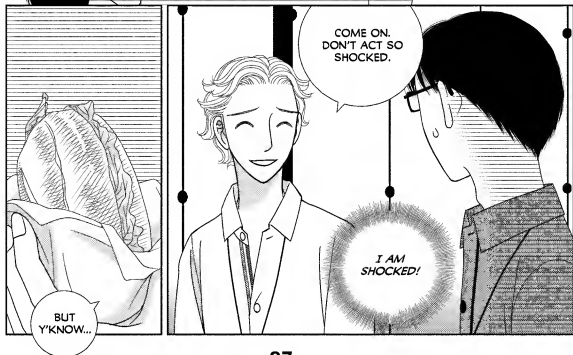
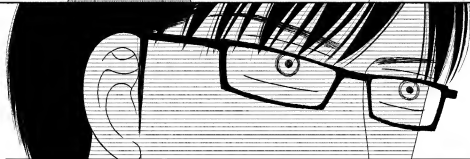


THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION.





TSUZAKI-SAN,
ARE YOU AND
MIKURI-SAN...





...THAT
MIGHT BE
IDEAL FOR
ME.

...IF THAT
WERE THE
CASE...

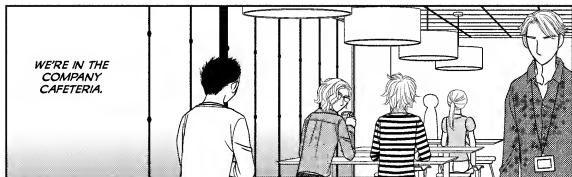


8

Like a Carp on a Cutting Board

*SO THIS IS WHAT
IT'S LIKE TO HAVE
NOWHERE TO RUN.*

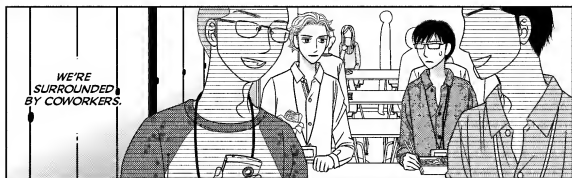




WE'RE IN THE
COMPANY
CAFETERIA.



I'VE ALREADY
STARTED EATING
MY LUNCH.



WE'RE
SURROUNDED
BY COWORKERS.



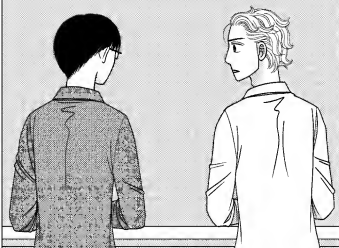
WAIT, ARE WE
RAPPING?

AND MY HEART IS
RACING.

I'VE GOT TO
KEEP IN TIME...
BUT HOW?



"TSUZAKI-SAN, ARE YOU AND
MIKURI-SAN JUST PRETENDING
TO BE A COUPLE?"



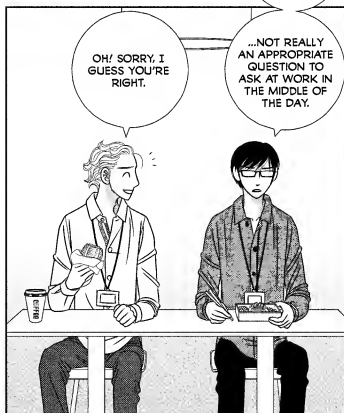
UMM, THAT'S RIGHT.

"IF THAT WERE THE
CASE, THAT MIGHT
BE IDEAL FOR ME."



UMM, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

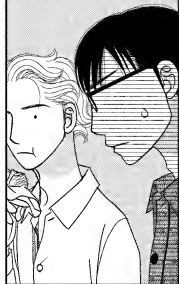
FOR NOW...





ALTHOUGH,
I GUESS YOU'VE
ALREADY ANSWERED
MY QUESTION.

LOOKS LIKE I'M
SAFE FOR NOW.

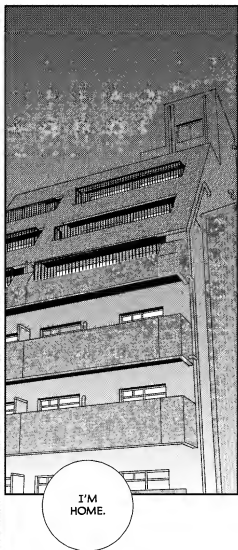
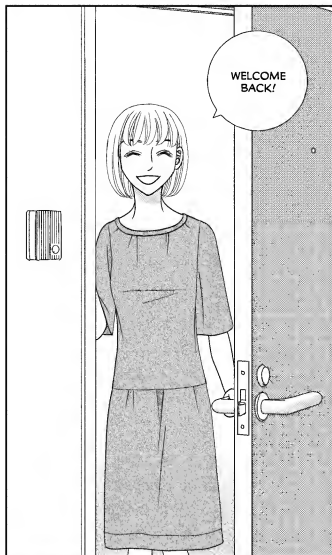


HEY! I HAVE
NEITHER
CONFIRMED
NOR DENIED
ANYTHING.

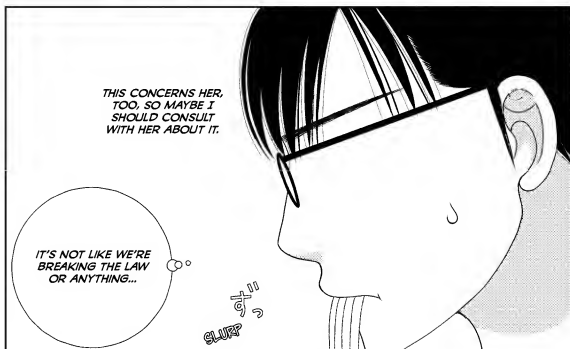
HA HA
HA!



WHAT SHOULD I DO?

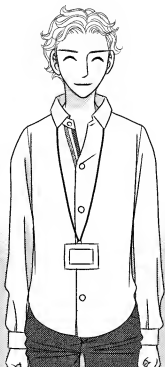


WHAT SHOULD I DO?



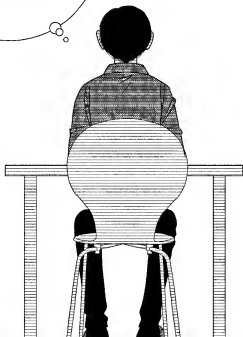
I DON'T THINK HE'S A BAD PERSON, BUT I DON'T EXACTLY FEEL CLOSE ENOUGH TO HIM TO SHARE THIS SECRET WITH HIM, EITHER.

...BUT FOR THE SAKE OF APPEARANCES IF NOTHING ELSE, IT'S NOT EXACTLY THE KIND OF THING YOU CAN JUST SAY IN FRONT OF ANYONE.



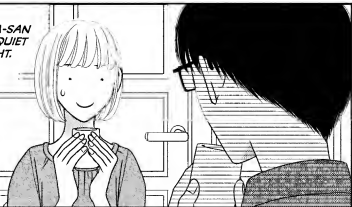
I MEAN, HE WOULD PROBABLY TELL ME IF I ASKED, BUT THEN I WOULD HAVE TO ANSWER HIS QUESTION, TOO.

I CAN'T TELL WHAT KAZAMI-SAN IS REALLY AFTER. WHAT'S HE MEAN THAT IT WOULD BE IDEAL FOR HIM?

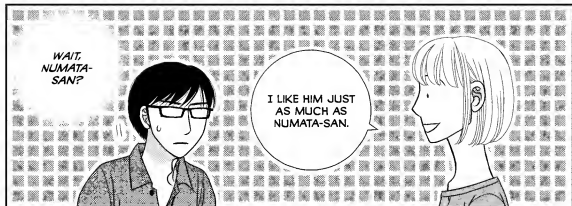
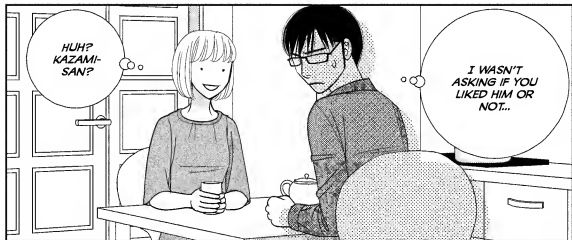


HIRAMASA-SAN SURE IS QUIET TONIGHT.

MAYBE HE DOESN'T LIKE MY FOREIGN-STYLE UDON NOODLES.









BUT...

DOES THAT MEAN SHE LIKES KAZAMI-SAN
AS THOUGH HE WERE A BIG BROTHER TO
HER AND NUMATA-SAN AS THOUGH HE
WERE A FATHER—OR RATHER,
A MOTHER?



DINNER'S
READY!



ALL
RIGHT!



HE'S IN THE SAME
CATEGORY AS
NUMATA-SAN?

BUFF GAY GUY



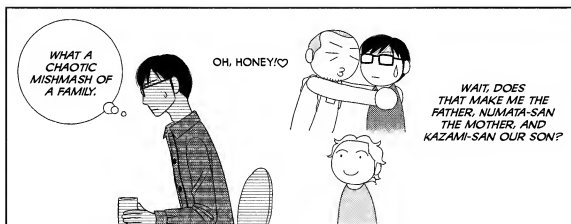
LIKES COOKING

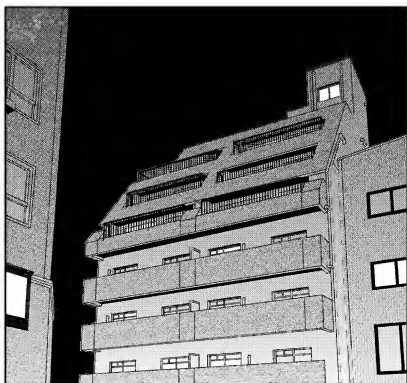
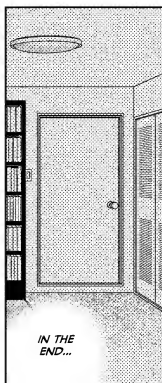


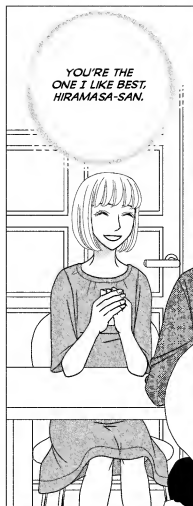
DOES SHE
MEAN...



...AS THE HEAD OF THE HOUSE?

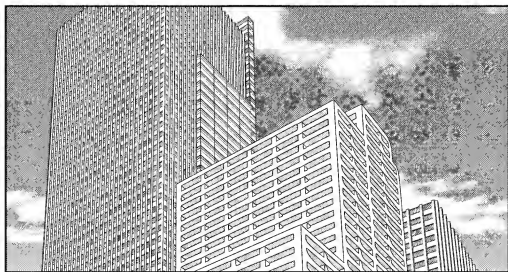


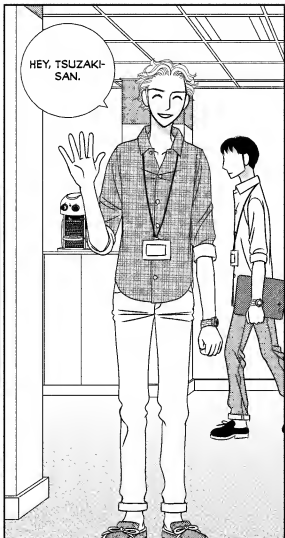


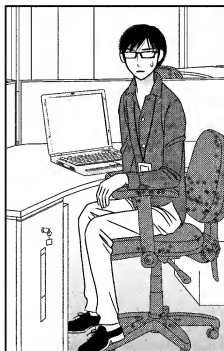


*I KNOW SHE WAS JUST PAYING
LIP SERVICE TO ME...*

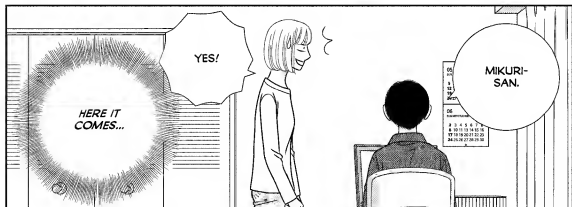
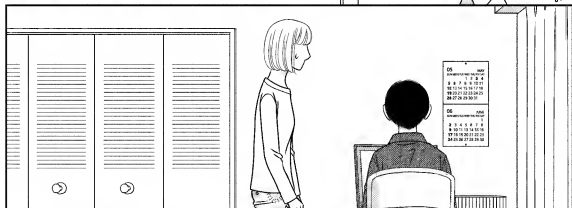
*...BUT I'M HAPPY ABOUT
IT NONETHELESS.*

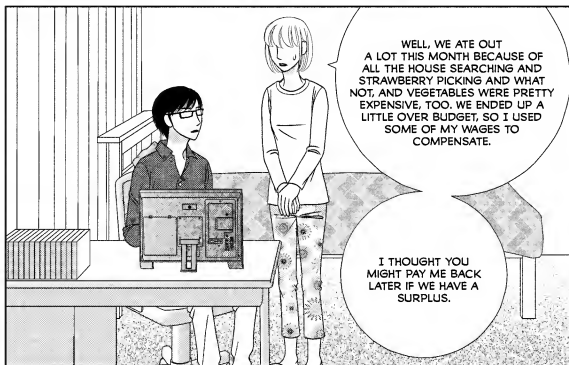
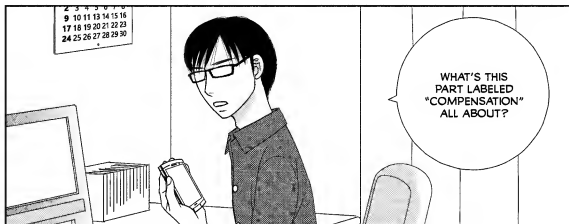






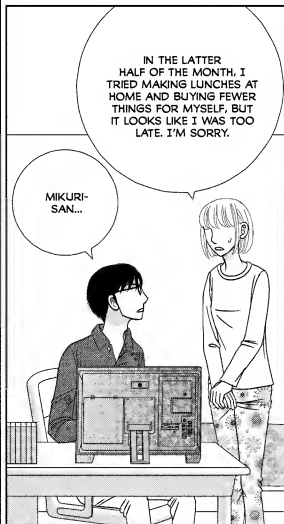
IT'S NOT LIKE STALLING...





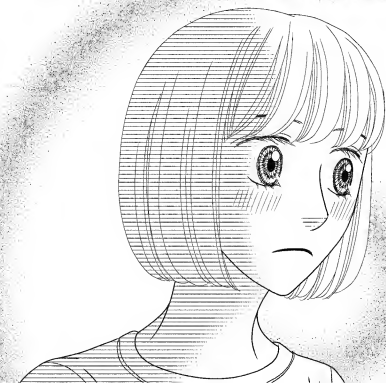
5
JUNE
MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
1
3 4 5 6 7 8
10 11 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30

...WHEN THERE'S A
PROBLEM, PLEASE DON'T
TRY TO HANDLE IT ALL BY
YOURSELF.



IN THE LATTER
HALF OF THE MONTH, I
TRIED MAKING LUNCHES AT
HOME AND BUYING FEWER
THINGS FOR MYSELF, BUT
IT LOOKS LIKE I WAS TOO
LATE. I'M SORRY.

MIKURI-
SAN...



THERE ARE TWO
OF US, AND THEY
SAY TWO HEADS
ARE BETTER
THAN ONE.

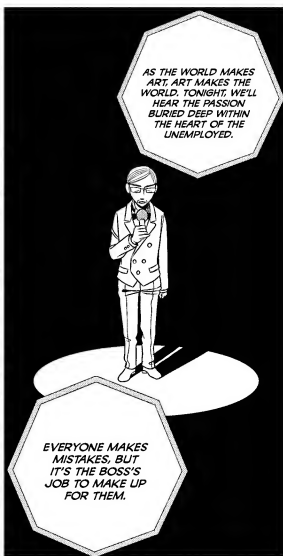
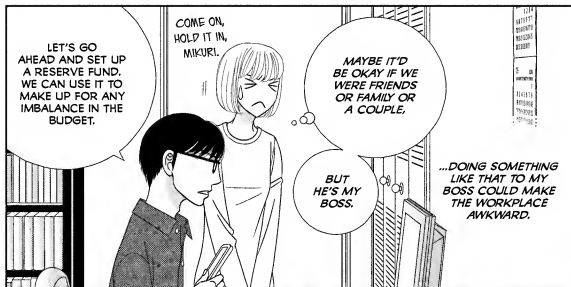
I'M SO HAPPY...

*I WANT TO
SHOW HIM HOW
GRATEFUL
I AM!*

OH-HU!
HIRAMASA-SAN!

*I WANT TO
GIVE HIM A
GREAT BIG
HUG!*

BUT...





...MIKURI
MORIYAMA
PERFORMING "THE
CARP'S HOME."



HOW BADLY I WANT
TO EMBRACE HIM...

...BUT OH, I'M ONLY
HIS EMPLOYEE.



I PUSHED THE BUDGET
INTO THE RED.

MY BOSS'S KIND
WORDS WON'T GET
OUT OF MY HEAD.



I'M JUST A
CHEAP CARP
FOR YOU TO
RAISE IN YOUR
POND...



...YOUR
PRECIOUS,
GOLDEN KOI.



...BUT
SOMEDAY
YOU'LL SEE...

...I WANT
TO BE...



WE'LL SET ASIDE
ANY MONEY WE HAVE LEFT OVER
AT THE END OF MONTH FOR THE
RESERVE FUND. IF THAT DOESN'T
SEEM TO HELP, WE CAN TRY TO
COME UP WITH A MORE
RADICAL SOLUTION.



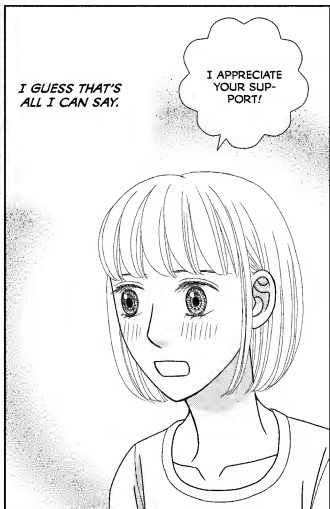
Y-YES!

...MIKURI-SAN?

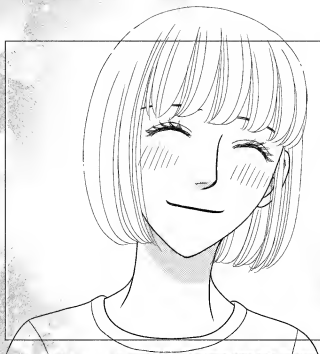


I GUESS THAT'S
ALL I CAN SAY.

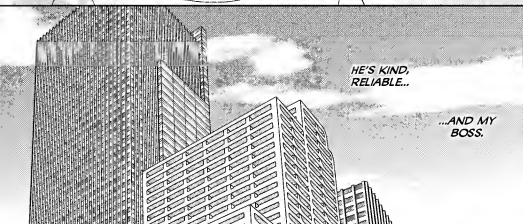
I APPRECIATE
YOUR SUP-
PORT!



...YOU CAN
COUNT ON
ME.



I KNEW I LIKED
HIRAMASA-SAN
THE BEST.



HE'S KIND,
RELIABLE...

...AND MY
BOSS.



...THERE'S SOMETHING
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO
HANDLE ALL BY MYSELF.

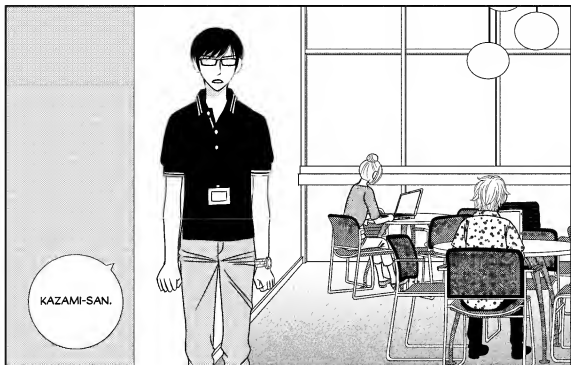


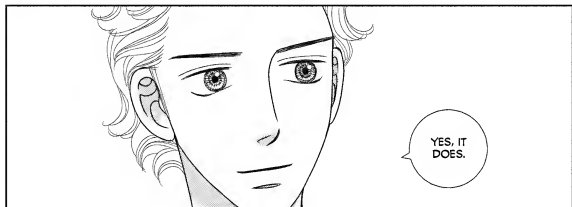
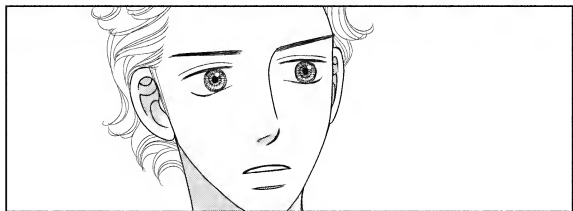
DESPITE WHAT I SAID
TO MIKURI-SAN...



*BUT BEFORE I LET MIKURI-SAN
KNOW ABOUT THIS...*

*...I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT IT IS
KAZAMI-SAN HAS IN MIND.*



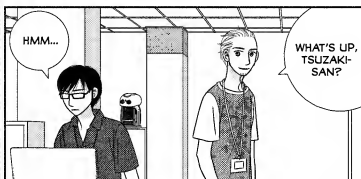
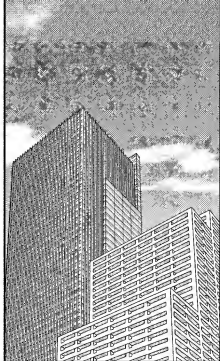


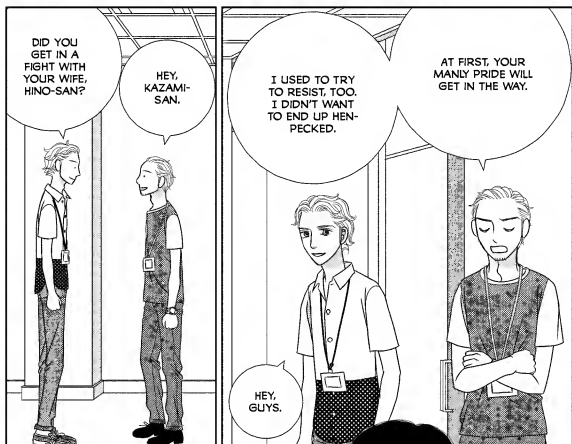


9

**Like a Bird Flying Up
From Under Your Feet**







TSUZAKI-SAN,
THANKS FOR
YESTERDAY.

THESE ARE
JUST THE RAM-
BLINGS OF AN
OLD MAN WHO
COULDN'T MAKE
THE CUT AS THE
SUPREME
RULER.

THAT
WAS A
LONG
TIME
AGO.

HA HA.

//
BOW
//

AWKWARD! WHY
DID YOU LET ME GO
ON AND ON ABOUT
BECOMING THE
SUPREME RULER?

WAIT, ARE
YOU JUST
HUNG
OVER?

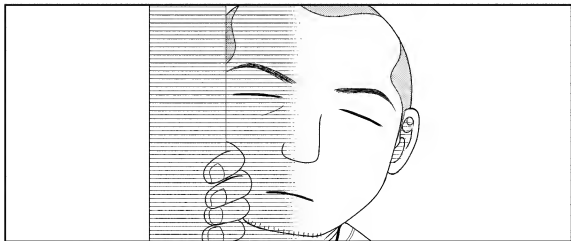
HA
HA
HA

ハハハハ...
BLUSH

NO, NO, NO,
IT WAS GOOD
ADVICE. THANK
YOU.

OH, Y'KNOW,
WE JUST WENT
DRINKING.

WHAT
HAPPENED?



*THEY WENT OUT DRINKING, JUST THE TWO OF THEM,
AND IT WAS TSUZAKI-KUN WHO MADE THE FIRST MOVE.*

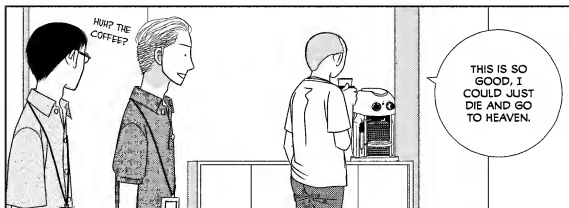
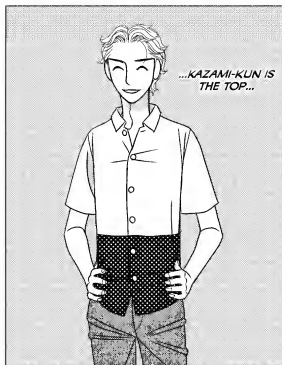
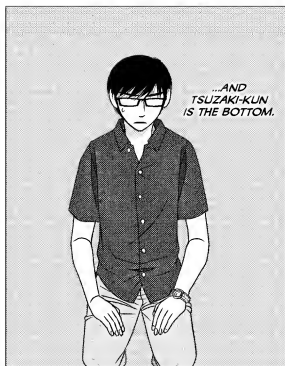


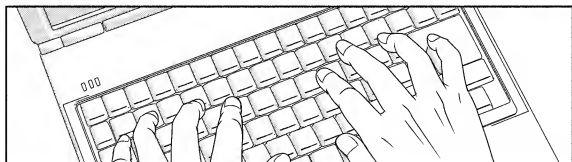
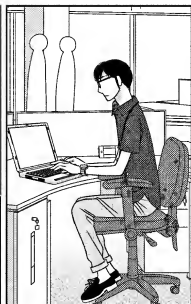
*KAZAMI-KUN SAID
THAT HE HAD BEEN
WAITING FOR A
LONG TIME.*



*THE NEXT DAY,
KAZAMI-KUN HAS
THAT SAME OLD
SMILE ON HIS FACE,
AND TSUZAKI-KUN
CLEARLY SEEMS
LOW ON ENERGY.*

BASED ON THAT, I IMAGINE...





HOW DID WE GET FROM THAT...



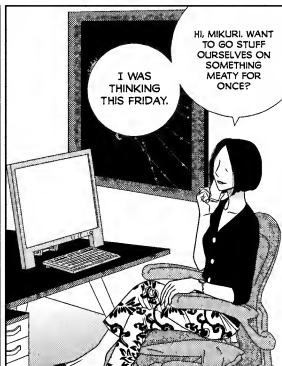
HELLO?

...TO WHERE WE
ARE NOW?



STUFF
OURSELVES
ON MEAT,
HUH?

HMM...



I WAS
THINKING
THIS FRIDAY.

HI, MIKURI. WANT
TO GO STUFF
OURSELVES ON
SOMETHING
MEATY FOR
ONCE?

IT'S JUST THAT
MY TOOTH SORT
OF HURTS.



THAT'S
NOT IT.

ARE YOU
NOT
FEELING
MEAT?



WELL, PAIN
KILLERS HELP.
FOR A WHILE,
ANYWAY.

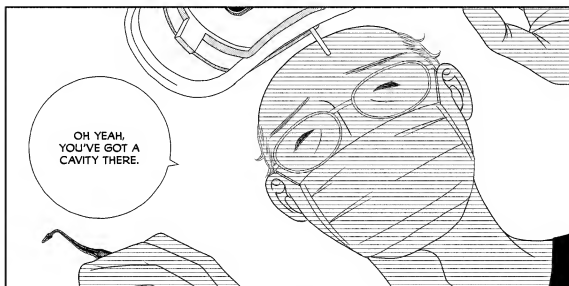
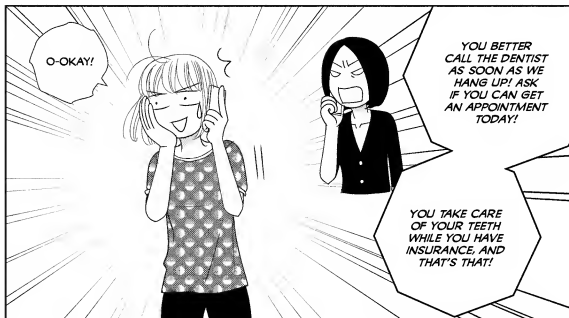
WHAT?
ARE YOU
OKAY?

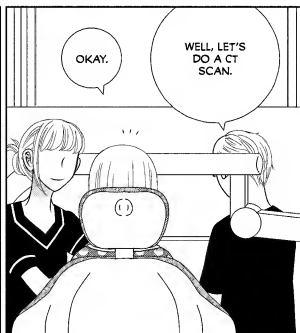
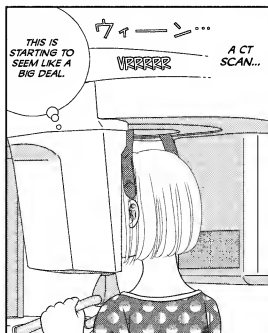


HMM, I
GUESS
YOU'RE
RIGHT...

YOU ONLY GET
ONE SET OF
TEETH. THAT GOES
FOR YOUR EYES,
TOO.

DON'T JUST TAKE
PAIN KILLERS. GET
YOURSELF TO A
DENTIST.







I, N!



S, U!



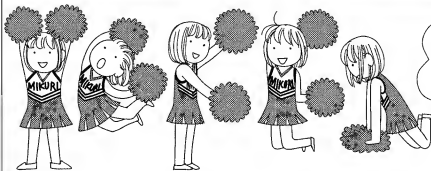
R, A!



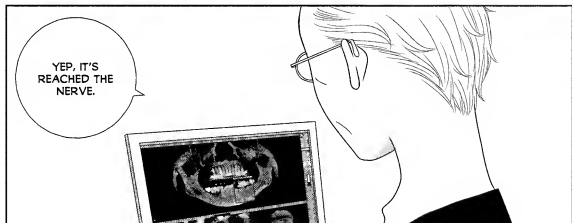
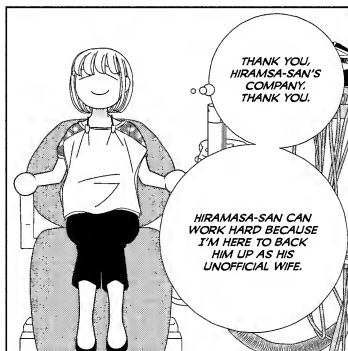
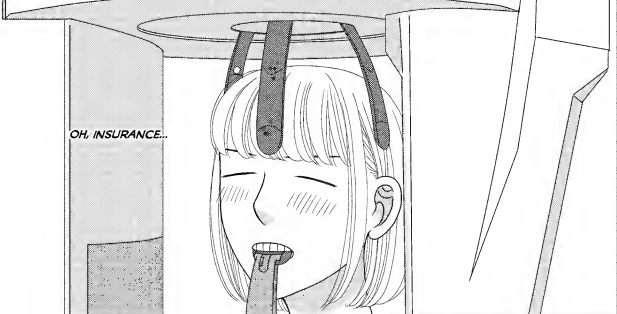
N, C!



E!



INSURANCE!





SIX
MONTHS
AGO...



THE ANESTHESIA
MAKES IT HARD TO
GARGLE



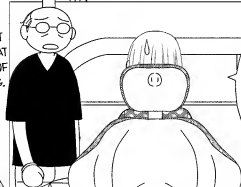
たったったったったったっ
たったったったったったっ

I DON'T KNOW
WHETHER I WAS
OVEREATING, BUT
I WAS DEFINITELY
STRESSED OUT...

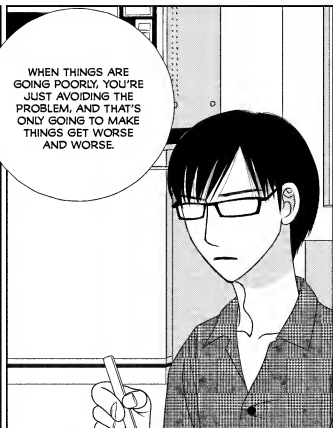
WASN'T THAT AROUND
THE TIME MY FAMILY WAS
MOVING AND I STILL
COULDN'T FIND A PROPER
JOB? I FELT SO LOST
AND ALONE.

OH, I'D
LIKE TO
GIVE MY
PAST SELF
A GOOD
KICK IN THE
BEHIND.

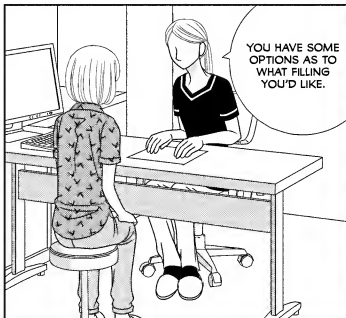
YOU
CAN'T
DO THAT
KIND OF
THING.



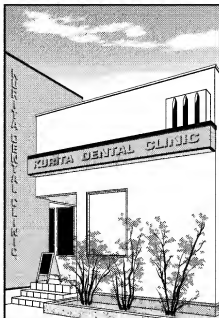
I MIGHT'VE BEEN TRYING
TO AVOID GOING TO THE
DOCTOR... I WOULD JUST
USE PAIN KILLERS TO DEAL
WITH HEAD, STOMACH, OR
TOOTH PAIN.



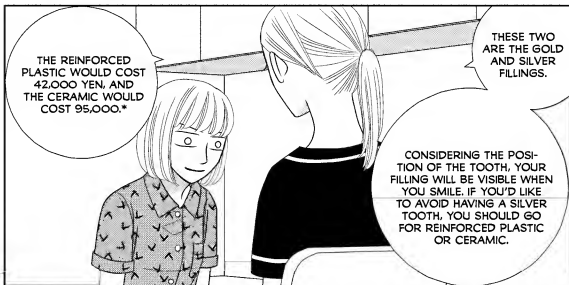




YOU HAVE SOME
OPTIONS AS TO
WHAT FILLING
YOU'D LIKE.



Kurita Dental Clinic		Gold Filling	Reinforced Plastic Filling
Palladium Filling  This metal filling is very strong, and as such, it can be used even on teeth that will be under a lot of stress. Because it is covered by insurance, it is somewhat of a steal.	Silver Filling  Compared to the fillings covered by insurance, this kind is a little softer to the touch, and better-tasting. Unlike the gold filling, it does somewhat of a taste.	Gold Filling  THE REST OF THEM WOULD BE A BIT MORE EXPENSIVE, AS INSURANCE WON'T COVER THEM.	Reinforced Plastic Filling  YOUR INSURANCE WOULD COVER THE PALLADIUM FILLING. IT'S BASICALLY A "SILVER TOOTH." Such an... its effectiveness... the tooth, it looks almost as good as ceramic filling.
		Durability	Aesthetics

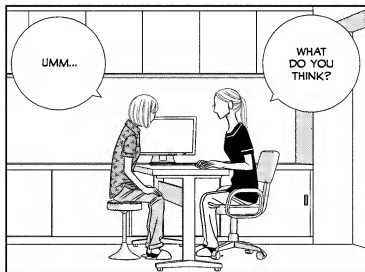


THE REINFORCED
PLASTIC WOULD COST
42,000 YEN, AND
THE CERAMIC WOULD
COST 95,000.*

THESE TWO
ARE THE GOLD
AND SILVER
FILLINGS.

CONSIDERING THE POSI-
TION OF THE TOOTH, YOUR
FILLING WILL BE VISIBLE WHEN
YOU SMILE. IF YOU'D LIKE
TO AVOID HAVING A SILVER
TOOTH, YOU SHOULD GO
FOR REINFORCED PLASTIC
OR CERAMIC.

* ABOUT 420 AND 950 US DOLLARS, RESPECTIVELY.



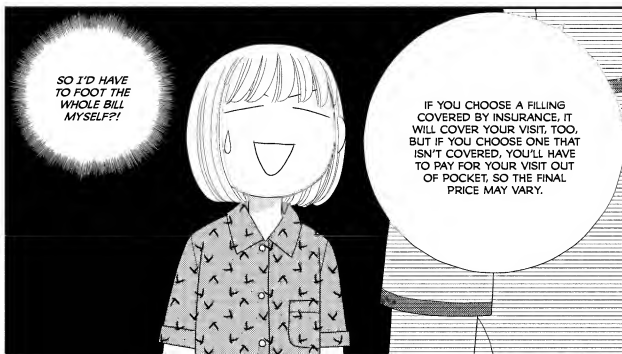
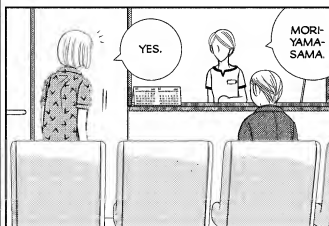
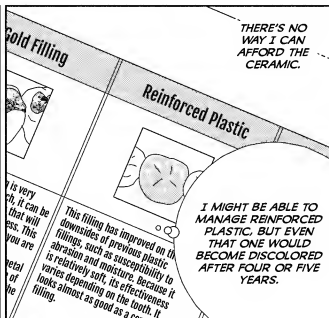
ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND YEN FOR A ZIRCONIA CERAMIC FILLING?!



白 EYES ROLLING
目 BACK IN SHOCK



* ABOUT 1,500 US DOLLARS.





M!



O!



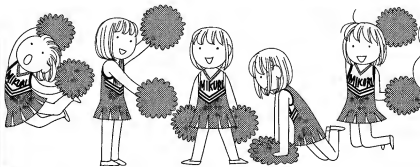
N!



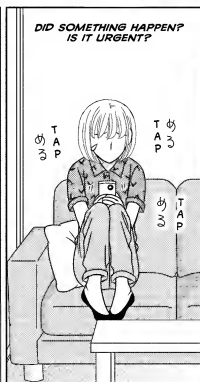
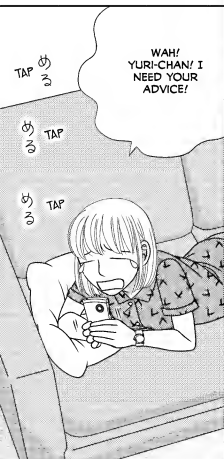
E!



Y!



MONEY!



FOR SURE! I'LL TEXT
YOU ONCE I'M FREE.
(>A・)-☆

WAH!
THANK
YOU!

YURI-CHAN!

YEAH. IS IT ALL RIGHT IF
WE MEET AT YOUR PLACE
TONIGHT?

THE PREPARATIONS
FOR THE MEETING
ARE COMPLETE,
MISS.

I HAVE A DINNER
ENGAGEMENT TODAY.
WOULD AFTER THAT
WORK?

ため
あ
3
P

ため
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3
P

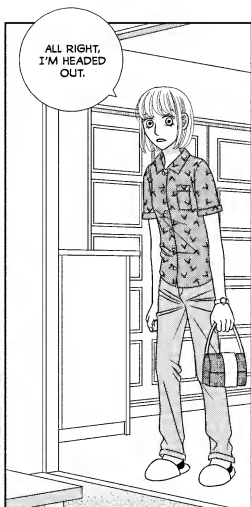
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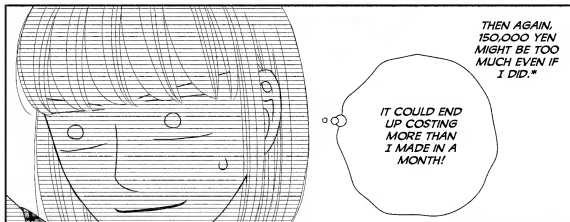
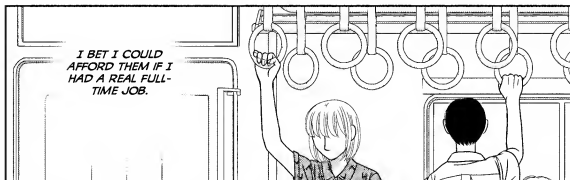
返信 SEND

I CAN'T
BORROW
MONEY
FROM HIM...

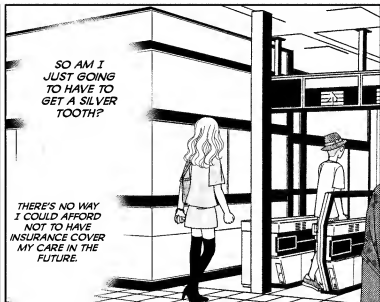
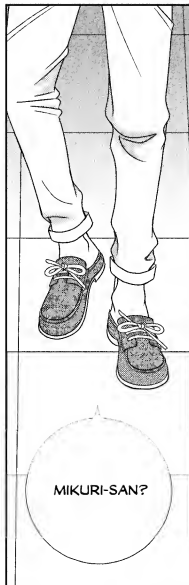
HIRAMASA-SAN MIGHT
OVERHEAR ME IF I
JUST CALLED HER.

AND MY
PARENTS ARE
FAR AWAY...



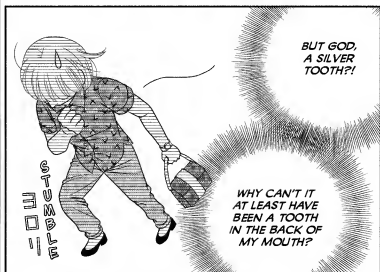


* ABOUT 1,500 US DOLLARS.



SO AM I
JUST GOING
TO HAVE TO
GET A SILVER
TOOTH?

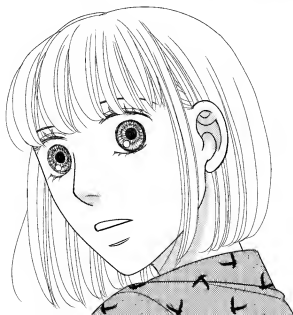
THERE'S NO WAY
I COULD AFFORD
NOT TO HAVE
INSURANCE COVER
MY CARE IN THE
FUTURE.

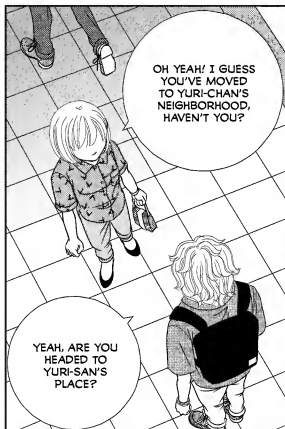


STAY
CLOSE
TO
ME

BUT GOD,
A SILVER
TOOTH?!

WHY CAN'T IT
AT LEAST HAVE
BEEN A TOOTH
IN THE BACK OF
MY MOUTH?







HAS TSUZAKI-SAN
TOLD YOU?



OH
YEAH.

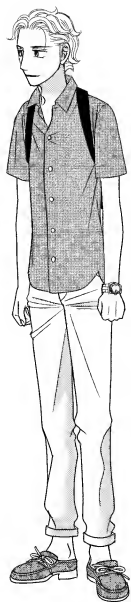


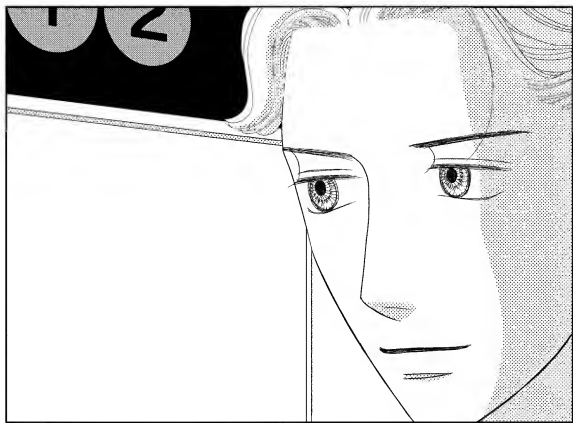
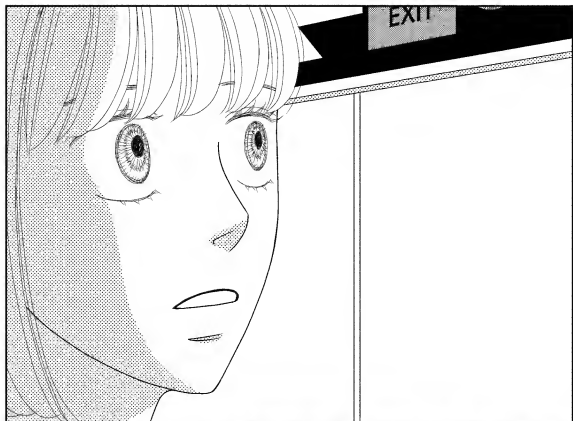
ABOUT
HOW HE
AND I...

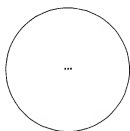
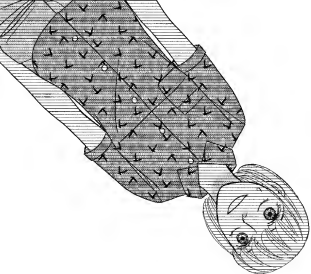


HUH? TOLD
ME WHAT?

...WOULD LIKE
TO SHARE YOU,
MIKURI-SAN.







Special Thanks to

**Mio Hase,
my family and friends,
Kamakura-san,
Murakami-san,
Komuro-san,
everyone who cooperated with my interviews,

and YOU.**

With Love, Tsunami Umino, 2013

**You can follow my work at this blog!
<http://uminotsunami.seesaa.net/>**

Afterword

This is my thirty-eighth tankobon.

Thankfully, the reviews of volume one were good, and it even got a second printing.

When it was about to come out, they weren't going to print very many copies of it. My editor was like, "That makes me mad. I'll show them by selling twice that many." So I'm happy, or rather, relieved.

I've done my own little part by retweeting people's comments on my work more than usual. Maybe that's why some of my colleagues in the industry have been telling me they've read it. I've been happy to hear that.

At first, I was just hoping I could make this last as long as your typical TV drama, so thirteen chapters. Now, it's looking like I'll reach that goal.

I'm going to keep working hard at it!

When I was writing the afterword for volume one, I whined a lot about my apartment being under renovation, but by now, I've completely settled in to my new place.

Of course, at first, I had trouble believing it was really my place every time I got in the bath.

Still, my nice new bathroom has big windows and the rainfall shower head I've always wanted. My office gives me a nice view of the sky and greenery while I work, and the toilet room is like a bird-cage. I'm very happy with all of it. I'm glad I had it renovated, now.

I always wanted to do a total renovation, but I was never sure I could do it while I was working. I guess it turns out that I could.

The hard part is always the first step. That's how everything is.

After that, you have no choice but to finish what you've started.

Between having my place renovated while continuing to publish my serial work, going to Paris and Chiang Mai, and my plans to do another one-off for Morning magazine, I guess I've got a lot on my plate this year.

Every year in September, I buy a planner that starts in October. I'm sure glad I put my plans for the renovation, travel, and one-off together last September.

Also, I used to work basically without rest. I planned my schedule by working it out backwards from my deadlines, and I was always just barely on top of things. Lately, I've rethought all that.

Instead of resting when I finish a manuscript, I stay in work mode and write the dialogue for the next one. Then, I make some time to rest before I start a new manuscript.

Once you've turned off the engine, it takes some time to start it back up again, right? As long as I've got the dialogue down, I can tell about how long the rest will take.

That and one other thing have sped up my work. I call it the "Forced Completion Quota System."

For every break I take, I decide on a quota for about a two-hour period, and I make a note of it in the corner of my manuscript.

Even if I haven't reached the quota by the end of that period, once I've taken a break, I move on to the next one. If I finish early, I can move on to the next quota or make up for earlier ones that I didn't meet.

Doing this, I'm able to make it to the last page by the scheduled day.

I still have to finish the parts I haven't completed afterwards, but it's not like there's a ton left at that point, and the leftover pages tend to go pretty quickly.

Anyway, this method lets me rest easy. It really gives me the feeling that I'm making progress.

Up till now, whenever I gave myself wiggle room, I'd end up behind schedule by just the amount of wiggle room that I'd given myself, but this method has made things go more smoothly.

I do worry that, at the end of the day, things might turn out better the more time I put into them. So, I'll put things on the backburner and take another look at them later. I feel like that helps me better judge where I've overdone it and where I need to fix things.

I can't use this method for dialogue, though. If I get distracted from that, I have to start the engine up all over again.

I guess there's no perfect method, and everything requires a multi-pronged approach.

Well, what comes after the big reveal (I) will be in the next volume.

While I seek out the way of doing things that suits me best, I'd like to continue to draw these characters' lives as they seek out their own ways of doing things.

In the next volume...



KAZAMI AND TSUZAKI WANT TO SHARE MIKURI. WILL KAZAMI'S UNEXPECTED PROPOSITION DEVELOP INTO AN UNHEARD OF ARRANGEMENT?

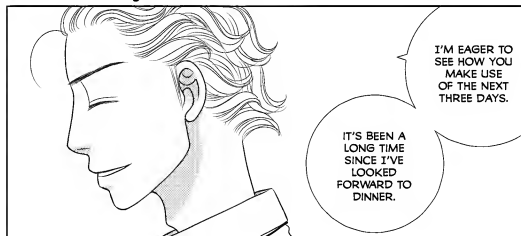
WHOSE UNOFFICIAL WIFE WILL YOU BE?



THE FULL-TIME WIFE ESCAPIST 3

*Volume 3
Coming
Sooooon!!*

Volume 3 coming soooooon!!



Translation Notes

Running away is embarrassing, but useful, page 3 [3.3, 3.4]

This Hungarian proverb was the original title of this manga in Japanese. You can see it in Hungarian on the filler pages: "Szégyen a futás, de hasznos."



The Quiet Bird Doesn't Get Shot, page 5 [5.1]

This Japanese proverb describes a situation in which you can avoid something bad by keeping your mouth shut.



Signs, page 16 [16.1]

These signs play on the advertisements of real companies: the financial company Marufuku, the food product company Ogichi, the soap company ADEKA, and Yasukawa Motors.



Onbu Obake, page 16 [16.3]

An *onbu obake* is a supernatural creature that likes to hitch rides on unsuspecting people's backs.



Kumaojirushi, page 18 [18.1]

This brand, Bear Mark in English, plays on the name of the real rice cooker company Zojirushi, or Elephant Mark. The image of a bear references another manga by Tsunami Umino called Kumaemon, which is about an extraterrestrial teddy bear.



Isolationism, page 23

[23.1]

Mikuri is referring to *sakoku*, the isolationist policies of the Edo Shogunate between 1639 and 1854. During the period of *sakoku*, foreign trade was restricted severely, Christianity was outlawed, and entrance to or exit from Japan were almost completely forbidden.



Takikomi gohan, page 31

[31.2]

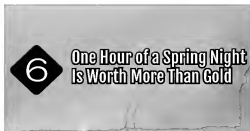
This is a dish that involves cooking rice in a mix of broth, vegetables, meat, and spices. it is similar to the jambalaya of Louisiana or the paella of Spain.



One Hour of a Spring Night is Worth More Than Gold, page 37

[37.1]

This is a line from "Spring Night" by the eleventh-century Chinese poet Su Shi.



Mikuri's aunt, page 53

[53.1]

Yuri doesn't like being called Mikuri's aunt because it makes her sound old. in Japanese, the word for aunt, obasan, is a homophone with "old woman."



Translation Notes

Sanuki udon, page 58

[58.4]

This is the specialty udon of Kagawa prefecture. It's known for its smooth texture. Located in the north of the southern Japanese island Shikoku, Kagawa prefecture has the highest udon consumption rate of all Japan.



It's Hard to Make the Good Things Last, page 67

[67.1]

In Japanese, the title of this chapter was roughly, "Clouds Can Cover the Moon; Wind Can Blow Flowers Away." This proverb expresses how easy it is to lose good things.



Golden Week, page 69

[69.2]

This is typically thought of as the period between April 29th and May 5th. What makes this week special is the large number of holidays (and thus, days off) that take place within this relatively short span of time. There's Showa Day on April 29th, May Day on May 1st, Constitution Memorial Day on May 3rd, Greenery Day on May 4th, and Children's Day on May 5th.



Pachinko, page 76

[76.2]

Gambling is illegal in Japan, so they have pachinko instead. A pachinko machine is something like a combination of a slot machine and a vertical pinball machine. You play the game using small metal balls that you can earn more of by winning. Those balls can then be traded in for small prizes, and you can take those prizes to separately managed "prize exchange locations" to exchange them for cash.



Good name for a barrel maker, page 80

[80.4]

Kazami's name includes the character for wind, and Yuri is referencing a Japanese saying, "If the wind blows, the barrel maker profits." This saying is typically considered an example of an unlikely cause and effect, similar to the one about the butterfly flapping its wings causing a hurricane on the other side of the planet. The first record of this phrase is in the 1768 novel *Seken Gakusha Katagi* (*The Nature of Social Scholars*) by Sanjin Museki, and it is also known for appearing in the popular nineteenth-century comic travel novel *Tokaido Hizakurige* by Jippensha Ikku. There is a sort of logic to the saying. The idea is that if the wind blows, dirt will get in people's eyes. If that happens, some of them will go blind, and they'll have to busk for money. To do that, they'll need shamisen (an instrument similar to a lute). To meet the increase in demand, *shamisen* makers will need more cat skins, and with fewer cats around, there will be more mice. The mice will nibble at people's barrels, so they'll need new ones. If more people need barrels, the barrel maker profits.



Shiruko wafers, page 89

[89.1]

Shiruko wafers, or *shiruko sando* in Japanese, are small treats that consist of wafers with a mix of red beans, apple jelly, and honey sandwiched inside them. They're said to taste like *shiruko*, which is a soup of sweet red beans with rice cakes and dumplings. The company that produces *shiruko* wafers, Matsunaga Seika, is based out of Aichi prefecture, where Nagoya is located, too.



Like a Carp on a Cutting Board, page 99

[99.1]

The title of this chapter is a Japanese idiom. It refers to being in a position where something bad is about to happen, and there's nothing you can do about it. There's no point even in struggling, because it's all in someone else's hands.



8

Like a Carp on a Cutting Board

The Carp's Home, page 124

[124.1]

Mikuri's song is in the style of *enka*, popular music that makes heavy use of traditional Japanese instruments and composition. *Koi*, or carp, is a homophone of the word for love or romance. Hence, being a cheap carp hints at a jilted love.



Translation Notes

Like a Bird Flying up from Under Your Feet, page 131 [131.1]

This Japanese idiom refers to something sudden and unexpected happening. It's inspired by the behavior of some birds, which will stay in their nest as you approach until you get very close, at which point they'll suddenly fly away (up from under your feet) for fear of being crushed.



Like a Bird Flying Up From Under Your Feet

Supreme Ruler of the Century's End, page 133 [133.1]

Hino is referencing *Fist of the North Star*. In this manga, the antagonist Raoh is a warlord known as the Supreme Ruler of the Century's End in a world devastated by nuclear war.



Tankobon, page 164 [164.1]

Most manga start out by being serialized in a magazine. When the chapters are collected into a book, that book is called a *tankobon*.

Afterword

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The Full-Time Wife Escapist 2

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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